

Yemen criticises Saudi Arabia

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Sunday criticised Saudi Arabia for imposing restrictions on Yemenis living in the kingdom. "If there was any kind of disagreement in political views or positions, this does not mean the people should take the burden of this controversy," Saleh told a meeting of the General People's Congress, the country's ruling party. "We did not expect such maltreatment by the kingdom of Yemeni nationals... who participated side by side with their brothers in building the Arab Saudi kingdom," he added. More than 30,000 Yemenis have left Saudi Arabia after the kingdom abolished their long-held privileges two weeks ago. Many have reported harassment by Saudi border guards and restrictions on carrying their belongings with them. Riyadh has also expelled scores of Yemeni diplomats, accusing them of posing a threat to Saudi security. Saleh said Yemen opposed both Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf region. "Unfortunately, there are those who do not want to understand the Yemeni stand... they want us to support and bless the foreign presence in the region," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Volume 15 Number 4509

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1990, RABI'U AWWAL 12, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Crown Prince meets Thatcher

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and reviewed with her the Gulf crisis. Prince Hassan briefed Thatcher on Jordan's position vis-a-vis the crisis and Jordan's efforts to find an Arab solution to the crisis. Prince Hassan also briefed Thatcher on the economic situation in Jordan and the difficulties the Jordanian economy is passing through as a result of its compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 661. The Crown Prince also explained to Thatcher the scale of the problem Jordan is facing as a result of the massive influx of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait and the negative impact of such large-scale evacuation on the national economy. Prince Hassan stressed the need for finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis, "which is threatening the security and stability of the region."

Djibouti officials hunt cafe bombers

DJIBOUTI (R) — Djibouti Interior Minister Khairi Adale Hared appealed Sunday for help in finding those responsible for a grenade attack on a popular cafe last week in which a child died and 17 people were injured. A nine-year-old French boy was killed in Thursday's attack on the crowded Cafe de Paris, which is popular with off-duty French troops stationed here. The minister appealed to all Djibouti residents for help in identifying the four attackers and a big reward has been offered for information. No organisation has claimed responsibility for the bombing but diplomats said it followed the pattern of earlier grenade attacks.

India-Pakistan talks may be postponed

ISLAMABAD (R) — Talks between India and Pakistan on Kashmir which were scheduled to start this week will probably be postponed, a senior Pakistan Foreign Ministry official said Sunday. Shabaz Khan said India had asked for a fresh date for the third round of talks which had been due to open in Islamabad. The request for a postponement follows a clash at the United Nations this weekend between the two countries over the uprising in the Indian-controlled part of the region. "I do not think that it represents a breakdown. Both sides clearly want a third round," Khan told a news briefing.

China denies chemical report

BEIJING (R) — China denied a British Sunday newspaper report that it had sold Iraq a large amount of a chemical used to make nuclear weapons and missile fuel. "The report by the Independent on Sunday is totally groundless," the official New China News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying. The Independent on Sunday in a report based on unnamed sources that a subsidiary of state-run North China Industries Corporation (Norinco) agreed 10 days ago to supply about seven tonnes of lithium hydride to Iraq for \$1.5 million (see page 2).

Iranian magazine urges anti-U.S. attacks

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian magazine has urged Muslims to attack U.S. targets across the globe to force the withdrawal of foreign troops, planes and warships from the Gulf. Bayan, published by former hardline Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashami, said in its latest issue it was the duty of Muslims to target American interests all over the world. "The palaces of the kings, sheikhs and the rulers of the 'Persian' Gulf region as well as the foreign naval forces should be the direct target of the Muslim nation forces," the magazine said. "Naturally attacks on U.S. interests as well as those of Israel and the crusader forces will be the prime objective of the Hizbollah cells," the magazine said. It complained that the Iranian government was preventing anti-American demonstrations.

Saddam calls for dialogue; Fahd says peace not difficult

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called Sunday for an early dialogue on the Gulf crisis but linked it to a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

"If dialogue replaces threats and the policy of peace replaces that of military buildup, we will not dispute where the starting point should be," he said in a message to world Muslims read on Iraqi radio and television.

Saddam said he welcomed initiatives such as that put forward by French President Francois Mitterrand in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly last week.

But he said Iraq would not compromise on its demand for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf and the end of the economic blockade imposed by the U.N. Security Council.

Saddam, whose message marked the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, said that Iraq was seeking clarification from the French government about Mitterrand's initiative.

"Despite our objections (to

some of the contents) we see the French president's address as different in its language from others. We hope that our positive conclusion is correct."

But he insisted that his Aug. 12 initiative linking the Gulf crisis to other Middle East problems, including Israel's occupation of Arab territories, remained the key to any settlement.

Saddam's message was read over the state television and radio by the veteran Iraqi announcer, Miqdad Murad.

King Fahd has urged Saddam to seek a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, saying the Iraqi leader should not find that difficult in view of his recent peace offering towards Iraq.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to see the end of the Gulf crisis by peaceful means," King Fahd said Sunday in the first batch of Saudi volunteers to complete a civil defence course since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

His statement was distributed by the Saudi Press Agency Sunday.

"Saudi Arabia does not hesitate to knock on the door of peace," King Fahd said. "It is the best door on which to knock at these times."

"It should not be hard or difficult

for President Saddam to overcome the hurdles just as he knocked down those that existed with Iran, the Muslim state."

King Fahd said news of the Iraqi invasion of a "dear, Muslim country" came as a shock to him and he could not believe it at first.

He recalled that Saudi Arabia had maintained good relations with Iraq and adopted a "great attitude" towards it, a reference to Saudi backing during Iraq's war with Iran.

In his address Sunday, Saddam, renewing his call for holy war, reaffirmed that Kuwait, which Iraq formally annexed Aug. 8, would always be Iraqi territory. "The Iraqi armed forces are in all circumstances ready to defend the province of Kuwait as they are ready to defend all the other provinces of the country."

His message, full of expressions of Islamic piety, appealed to Muslim concerns about the presence of Western troops in Saudi Arabia, home of Islam's holiest shrines.

He described the U.S.-led military buildup in Saudi Arabia as "an invasion of the sanctity of holy sites."

Saddam denounced mediators who have been pressing for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as part of a Gulf settlement.

"These mediators, even if well-intentioned, take a position in be-

tween wrong and right... an Arab solution cannot be achieved in the shadow of foreign forces and threats."

Mitterrand told the General Assembly last Monday that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait.

"If Iraq would confirm its intentions to withdraw its troops and free the hostages, everything would be possible," he said.

He suggested that the international community and the Arab countries could then work together to solve the problems of Lebanon, the aspirations of the Palestinian people for an independent state and the right of Israel to live in security.

President Saddam said: "We have to encourage any behaviour by foreigners, including those who have become involved in the naval buildup (in the Gulf) to pull back, while not bargaining over our aims and principles."

Saudi Arabia was allied with Kuwait, along with Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance.

Foreign ministers of the GCC countries, along with their counterparts from the 12-member European Community, met in New York where

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Israelis kill Palestinian, wound 21 in West Bank

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian and wounded 21 in the occupied West Bank Sunday in one of the bloodiest clashes for months, military sources said.

It was the first death for three weeks in Israel-Palestinian violence in the West Bank. Residents said it was the worst incident in the Nablus area since June.

The sources said the troops involved in the clash, in Jammam village near Nablus, were from the border police responsible for an April 1989 raid on the West Bank village of Nabalin in which five Palestinians were killed.

Meanwhile, Gaza and parts of the West Bank were paralysed by a strike called by underground uprising leaders to express sympathy with Gaza's Bureij refugee camp.

The camp of 20,000 remained under curfew for an 11th straight day since an Israeli soldier was killed there Sept. 20. The army has demolished or sealed over 40 shops and homes in Bureij following the killing.

Protests also spread to Arab Jerusalem. In the Old City, a masked man tried to stab an Israeli but did not succeed and escaped, police said. Police detained eight Palestinians for questioning, he added.

Early Sunday, an Arab attempting to hurl a bomb at a bus stop near the southern port of Ashdod was hurt in the explosion, suffering numerous shrapnel wounds, police and Israeli Radio said. He was taken to hospital.

The protests came after roads into Israel were reopened from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The occupied territories were sealed off for 24 hours for a Jewish holiday.

The army said the violence in Jammam began after a jeepload of paramilitary border police "encountered disturbances" and attempted to disperse the protesters.

Arab journalists said the protests focused at the village's high school where Palestinian students hurled stones at the troops.

The Israeli patrol fired some 15 teargas canisters into the school and called in reinforcements. Two more jeeps arrived and the police raided the school building.

Parents of the students rushed to the school, trying to stop the troops, and clashed with them inside the compound, Arab reports said.

Ahmad Shehadeh, 58, was hit with two bullets in the head and the neck and was dead on arrival at Itihad in Nablus, hospital officials reported.

Britain said ready to use nuclear weapons against Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — British forces will retaliate with battlefield nuclear weapons if they are attacked with chemical gas by Iraqi troops, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday.

The weekly said it was given the information by a senior officer attached to the British Seventh Armoured Brigade which began to leave for the Gulf from the German port of Bremerhaven Saturday. The report did not identify the officer and the Ministry of Defence said it had no comment.

"We do not comment on any aspect of our nuclear capability," said a spokesman.

The ministry refused to say whether the brigade, which is normally stationed in Germany, was taking to the Gulf its 155-millimetre self-propelled Howitzers which can fire W48 nuclear shells or conventional high explosive. The newspaper said the nuclear shells are normally held by the British in dual custody with American troops.

W48 shells are equivalent to 100 metric tons of high explosive, which is 100 times smaller than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II, the report added.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Saturday the Soviet Union would be prepared to send troops to the Gulf under the auspices of the United Nations.

"We will comply with any decision, with any resolution of the (United Nations) Security Council," Shevardnadze told the U.S. television network NBC.

"This is our decision and that would include anything regarding the involvement of Soviet troops under the flag, under the auspices of the United Nations."

In other developments: — The commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia said that he expected the number of his troops in the kingdom to reach 20,000 within the next 15 days.

This number includes the 2,000 special forces sent soon after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as well as the 3rd

mechanised infantry division that started arriving in Sept. 22.

The State Department has issued a new warning to Americans travelling abroad of the threat of Iraq-sponsored "terrorist" attacks "in the near future."

"The State Department is particularly concerned about possible terrorist attacks, in Europe and the Middle East," the advisory said.

The bulk of the French ground troops joining the U.S.-led multinational forces in Saudi Arabia disembarked in Yanbu Sunday.

About 2,000 men, most of them foreign legionnaires, and some 50 vehicles came off the ferries Esterel, Ile de la Remion and Le Castellet after they docked at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT).

— Iran pledged to fully apply U.N. sanctions against Iraq and agreed on the need for future security cooperation among Gulf states, in talks with European Community ministers, an EC statement said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met an EC "troika" — the foreign ministers of Italy,

Moscow upgrades ties with Israel

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Soviet Union and Israel announced after a meeting of their foreign ministers Sunday to upgrade their relations by opening consulates in each other's countries.

The decision taken by Eduard Shevardnadze and David Levy represented a big new step in thawing relations frozen for two decades after the 1967 war.

The two foreign ministers also told reporters they intend to start meeting regularly and their foreign ministries would be in regular contact.

The Kremlin broke relations with Israel after the 1967 war. The two countries began unfreezing their contacts in 1987, when the Soviets posted a delegation in Tel Aviv that operated through the Finnish embassy. A year later, Israel established a low-level mission in Moscow operating through the Netherlands embassy.

Asked about an Israeli report that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has authorised direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel, Shevardnadze said that was a complicated issue to be discussed further (see page 2).

Levy and Shevardnadze met for an hour in the chambers of the U.N. Security Council president, the rotating post occupied by the Soviet Union for the month of September.

The two leaders arrived separately, Levy solemn-faced and declining to comment. They emerged after the meeting, shaking hands and both smiling.

"We have decided to establish consular relations between Israel and the USSR. In Tel Aviv and in Moscow consulates-general will be established," Shevardnadze said after a similar statement in Hebrew by Levy.

Sunday's move falls short of full diplomatic ties, which Moscow has said can only be resumed when Israel agrees to an international Middle East peace conference.

Israel troops into Jordan as an act of war and a military analysts said the army was reviewing its strategy in light of what is seen as Amman's support for Baghdad.

"Israel saw Jordan as a Western asset to be defended. Now the posture is shifting. We are unsure how much of a commitment to make to Jordan and how much they are interested," an analyst said.

"Israel will be much more flexible than before. Should we tie our hands and say that every Iraqi soldier who crosses the Jordanian border is a threat to Israel?"

"Israel will respond to Iraq on the basis of what it does to Israel, not what it does to Jordan," he said.

Shomron no longer sees entry of

thousands.

While Israel has the military muscle to inflict heavy damage on Iraq, the U.S.-led coalition of Western and Arab forces blockading Iraq could fall apart if the Jewish state threw its troops, tanks and planes into a conflict.

Palestinians pin their hopes on a diplomatic resolution which might revive United Nations efforts to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Israeli government and army officers are deeply disappointed by Jordan's stand in the Gulf crisis and angered at the support for Iraq shown daily by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Shomron no longer sees entry of



Thousands of evacuees line up for water and food at a camp near Azraq (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Jordan, in red for JD 40m, asks for direct aid in cash

Committee has received less than \$1.7m of reported \$100m, Hammad reports

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan said Sunday it was facing grave financial difficulties in handling the flow of foreigners from Iraq and Kuwait in the absence of direct international assistance and called for direct contributions in cash to the Kingdom to help it pay for the expenses incurred in the evacuation process.

The national committee supervising the process is in dire financial straits and has actually received less than JD 1.2 million in cash contributions while it has spent over JD 40 million in offering basic facilities to over 641,000 evacuees, the committee's chairman said.

Salameh Hammad, who is also secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior, warned

that the committee, "as a consequence of the heavy expenses involved in ensuring basic facilities and amenities for the evacuees," had incurred "heavy debts which make it impossible for it to carry on with its mission unless they are settled."

The thrust of Hammad's comments, made at a press conference, was the lack of direct cash contributions to the national committee. While reports have spoken of over \$100 million in contributions to help the evacuation process, Jordan has actually received less than \$1.6 million (JD 1,120,700) cash, Hammad said. These contributions came from the U.S. government (JD 181,175), the United Nations Development Programme (JD 189,289), the U.N. Disaster

Relief Organisation (JD 650,000), the Near East Council of Churches (JD 13,256). The Council of Churches (JD 10,000) and Save the Children Fund (JD 10,000), he said.

Hammad said contributions had been given direct to countries which have nationals in Kuwait and Iraq while Jordan was shouldering the actual burden of the evacuation process. Furthermore, he said, contributions had also been channelled to international organisations which follow "elaborate bureaucratic procedures which tend to cause delays in the transfer of funds."

"We highly appreciate the assistance, but, quite simply, the volume of aid (reaching

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Syria ready to send more troops to Gulf

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syria is ready to send more troops to face Iraq in the Gulf and could do so without jeopardising its defences, Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Sunday.

"We are ready to send more troops if our Arab brothers need them," Khaddam told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"We can afford to send troops to the Gulf without affecting our fighting strength on the front line with the Israeli enemy," he added.

Khaddam did not say how many Syrian soldiers were already in the Gulf.

He said Syria and Egypt were coordinating efforts to seek an end to the Gulf crisis that will ensure an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty.

Khaddam said in arrival comments that he was carrying a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to Mubarak about developments in the Arab World and Assad's recent visit to Iran.

"We are seeking the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait according to the Arab League resolutions, and the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty," Khaddam said.

"We exchanged views on different possibilities and the continuation of coordinating efforts between the two countries to serve Arab interests," Khaddam said after the 90-minute meeting with Mubarak.

Recent Syrian diplomatic efforts in the Gulf crisis included a visit by Assad to Iran last week.

Assad pledges support for Hrawi to oust Aoun

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad has assured Lebanese President Elias Hrawi of Syria's full military and political support in his bid to oust defiant General Michel Aoun, diplomats and officials said Sunday.

They said the pledge was made during talks between Assad and Hrawi Saturday during a surprise visit by the Lebanese leader after his troops imposed a blockade on areas controlled by Aoun.

Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, who was in Cairo Sunday for Gulf crisis talks, said his country would give Lebanon every assistance to "reinstate the state's authority."

"The Lebanese state... is now taking practical steps to reinstate the state's authority over Lebanese territories and restore law and order. We will provide every assistance that Lebanon might request," Khaddam told reporters.

Aoun meanwhile urged Lebanese Sunday to rise up and beat the blockade imposed on his

stronghold by Hrawi.

More than 10,000 pro-Aoun demonstrators ringed the general's shell-blasted presidential palace in the east Beirut suburb of Baabda on the third day of a tightened siege on the area of the Christian enclave held by Aoun's 15,000 troops.

"Your presence here today is the biggest challenge and message that could be sent to those blockading you," Aoun told cheering supporters who waved red-and-white Lebanese flags.

"What is needed today is solidarity returning to the Lebanese people. They should all rise up and stand against this blockade and persecution," he said.

Aoun, 54, refuses to recognise Hrawi's authority and rejects recent constitutional reforms to give Muslims a greater say in the Christian-dominated political system.

Soldiers with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades stood guard on rooftops as Aoun spoke to the rally, the biggest at the palace since last November.

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Soviet-Israeli flights to resume after 23 years

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and the Soviet Union will resume direct air links next month after a 23-year break, but it is unclear if it will boost Soviet Jewish immigration.

A statement by the Israeli Transport Ministry late Saturday said Soviet Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov had told Israeli Transport Minister Moshe Katsav flights would resume from the end of October, with details still to be finalised.

But political sources said the agreement was likely to be conditional on Israeli assurances immigrants would not be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel Radio quoted immigration official Simcha Dinitz as saying that he hoped immigrants to Israel would not be barred from the flights.

Palestinians and Arab states, fearing the effects of an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, have pressed Moscow to stem the flow and will be enraged if direct flights boost immigration.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said in remarks published on Thursday the Soviet Union was no longer an ally because of its stance on the Gulf crisis and Palestinians. "It is no longer possible to regard Moscow as a friend and ally of world forces of liberation, including the Arab World and the Palestinian people and cause," the Tunisian daily Assabah quoted PLO Executive Committee member Abdallah Hourani as saying.

Some 100,000 Soviet Jews have already moved to Israel this year, and officials predict up to a million by the end of 1982.

Air links between the two countries were cut when the Soviet Union broke off diplomatic

relations with Israel over the 1967 war.

Soviet emigrants here speculated the renewal of flights could be a prelude to resumption of full diplomatic relations.

Soviet-Israeli ties have warmed recently. The two countries have exchanged consular missions and this week an Israeli legislator said that the Russian Federation's parliament was seeking direct links to the Israeli legislature.

A senior Israeli immigration official said the number of direct flights would initially be limited to about two per week in each direction and not have a dramatic effect on immigration.

"But hopefully the number of flights will eventually be expanded," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We would like to be in a position in which the majority of Soviet Jews can come straight from the Soviet Union. It's easier and safer."

Yossi Alameir, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, praised the Soviet step as "a very positive development in the direction of strengthening and intensifying the relations between Israel and the Soviet Union."

He said it was another leap towards resuming diplomatic ties. "The Soviets themselves have told us that after such a period of improved relations, it is very possible that there will be diplomatic relations," he told the Associated Press.

The Soviet decision to allow direct flights was passed on by Pavlov to Katsav in a telephone call on Friday, Israel Radio reported.

The airlines of the two countries, Aeroflot and El Al signed a direct flights agreement last year, but Aeroflot then said it needed approval from Soviet leaders

Sand erosion hits U.S. helicopters in S. Arabia

SAUDI ARABIA, (R) — Sand is wearing away vital parts of U.S. army helicopters and pilots complain they are having trouble finding their way in the desert.

But a senior U.S. officer who recounted the problems faced by his men and their fleet of anti-tank, reconnaissance and transport helicopters in Saudi Arabia said Saturday the harsh desert conditions had not affected their readiness to fight.

Colonel Robert Seigle, commander of the army's 18th aviation brigade, told reporters the sand was wearing away the rotor blades and the turbine blades in the helicopter engines.

"Every moving piece of equipment on our helicopters is subject to being sandblasted all the time we're flying. That's the thing we're having most trouble with right now and the U.S. army is going to learn some lessons," he said at a briefing.

Helicopter mechanics are fitting particle separators to stop the fine sand being sucked into engine compression chambers. They are also either painting eight coats of an epoxy compound on the blades or wrapping tape on the leading edge, he said.

Seigle said the Apache anti-tank helicopters, which were the first to arrive in Saudi Arabia and are vital in any assault on Iraqi armoured divisions have maintained a "mission-capable rate" well above the army standard.

Seigle, also in charge of flight crews for all U.S. army helicopters in Saudi Arabia, said some newly-arrived pilots had lost their way in the trackless desert wastes.

"You need some time in an area like this to get familiar with the terrain. The aviators... get more proficient every day," he

added.

The helicopters have been flying over forward positions held by Saudi and other Arab forces to learn to recognise allied equipment and allow Arab troops to learn the difference between U.S. and Iraqi aircraft.

The Arab forces, including Egyptians, Syrians, Moroccans, Kuwaitis and troops from other Gulf states, have a variety of equipment such as French and British tanks and Soviet trucks.

"We have had to do some very diligent coordination with the (Arab) forces deployed between us and the Kuwaiti border," Seigle said. "We are constantly working out a set of procedures, such as what's the simplest marking we can think of to clearly identify them."

He said the number U.S. army helicopters in Saudi Arabia now stood at three-quarters of their planned strength but he declined to give any figures.

The aircraft include Apache and Cobra attack helicopters, troop-carrying Black Hawks, Vietnam-era Hueys, heavy twin-engine Chinooks and three variants of the OH-58 observation helicopter.

The helicopters are a cornerstone of U.S. military strategy. The Apache is intended to help knock out some of Iraq's vast tank force while the Black Hawks ferry troops around the battlefield.

Seigle said U.S. combat planes and helicopters could have thwarted any Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia at least a month ago.

"Anyone who came across that border would have run into a very formidable force and probably would not have made it as far south as our most northerly position," he said.

Shomron: Israel's interests supersede America's needs

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel would ignore American pleas for restraint in the Gulf crisis if it felt an imminent Iraqi threat, the head of the Israeli army said Saturday.

"Despite our wish to do everything in coordination with the United States, when there is a situation in which we feel danger to Israeli citizens we will respond according to our interests," Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron told Israeli Television.

Since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait sent Middle East tensions soaring Israel has maintained a generally low profile which diplomats say is at least partly at the urging of the United States, its biggest ally and financial backer.

Defence analysts interpreted Shomron's statement as a response to a warning by Iraq last Sunday to attack Israel if it felt strangled by United Nations sanctions.

The Bush administration has praised Israel's conduct and promised to "respond immediately and forcefully" if Iraq attacks Israel.

Shomron added that the army was ready to begin gradual distribution of protective equipment against chemical warfare even earlier than scheduled.

Asked why the army had not

issued gas masks sooner, he disclosed that it was decided six months ago to start distributing them in December.

He did not say whether the decision was prompted by the Iraqi warning, also made six months ago, to retaliate with chemical weapons if Israel launched a nuclear assault on Iraq.

Shomron said he had no knowledge of any planned American attack on Iraq but that U.S. strength in the Gulf was clearly growing.

"I can say without doubt that the disposition of U.S. forces is better today than it was two weeks or a month ago and in two weeks time it will be still better. I do not know if the Americans have taken a decision (to act)," he said.

He added that an Iraqi first strike was unlikely but not impossible.

"For the president of Iraq to launch a war would be an irrational step but if he is thinking in terms of suicide or from an irrational viewpoint he could make such a decision."

"I think the probability is very low but we are not taking any chances and therefore we are prepared for any eventuality," Shomron said.

'China supplied rare chemical to Iraq'

LONDON (Agencies) — China has sold Iraq large quantities of a rare chemical used to make nuclear weapons, missile fuel and even nerve gas, in breach of the U.N. trade embargo on Iraq, a London newspaper said.

The Independent on Sunday said that it had documents showing that around Sep. 20 a subsidiary of North China Industries Corporation (Norinco), a Chinese state company, agreed to supply about seven tons of lithium hydride to Baghdad for around \$1.5 million.

The deal was struck "in great secrecy," the newspaper said.

Britain's Foreign Office said Saturday night it was studying the report, which appeared in the newspaper's early edition.

China, which is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, voted for a U.N. Security Council resolution banning trade with Iraq after its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The Independent on Sunday said that the U.S. embassy in Beijing advised the Chinese Foreign Ministry that the United States was concerned about Norinco's activities. It was not known if this related to the

lithium hydride deal, it said. Iraq has previously tried to obtain lithium hydride, used in minute quantities in the pharmaceutical and computer industries, the newspaper said.

But failed because the three Western manufacturers of the chemical are suspicious of large orders, it said.

Then, just before the United Nations vote in August for a trade embargo on Iraq, the Norinco subsidiary sent sales material about lithium hydride to five international arms dealers, the newspaper said.

The company offered 10 tons of the chemical for sale at around \$210,000 a ton. The offer was open "to any purchaser" and Iraq agreed "within days" to buy seven tons.

"Sources suspect that they planned to fly it to Tehran, and then forward it as 'pharmaceuticals' to Baghdad," the newspaper said.

The Independent on Sunday said it had copies of some of the original documents and had seen other nerve gas documents.

"The documents suggest potential uses for the chemical 'in

the space industry as a high energy fuel' and 'as an excellent catalyst used in the organic-synthesis industry,' which would include the manufacture of poison gas," it said.

The Iraqis are most likely to use lithium hydride to make missile fuel, the Independent on Sunday said.

Iraq's failure to obtain the chemical had held back its ballistic missile programme, which involved developing missiles to reach Tel Aviv, Riyadh, as well as parts of southern Europe, it said.

The newspaper said the chemical can be used to manufacture hydrogen bombs. But this is unlikely now as scientists believe Iraq will not have the know-how to do this for "at least a decade," it said.

But Julian Perry-Robinson, an authority on the science of chemical weapons, was quoted as telling the Independent on Sunday the chemical is also a precursor for lithium aluminium hydride, which can be used to produce nerve gas.

The Foreign Office, asked to comment on the report, said it

would be studied. "We attach importance to full implementation of the U.N. embargo. China and Iran both support the U.N. resolutions," a spokesman said.

A Morisco spokesman, contacted by Reuters in Beijing, denied the company produced lithium hydride.

The spokesman, who identified himself only as Yu, said the company had never sold anything to Iraq — even before the United Nations sanctions.

Western diplomats in Beijing said they had no evidence that China had violated the embargo. They noted Peking has been careful to avoid even shipments of food and medicine, despite its stance that such shipments in principle do not violate the embargo terms.

They said it was possible that North China Industries, perhaps with the tacit agreement of defence officials, would try to earn money through sales to Iraq if it thought it could get away with it.

But the foreign Ministry was certain to be angered by any such deals and it would lead to a dispute within the leadership.

Tehran newspaper calls for refugee plans

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian and Iraqi newspapers are carrying editorials warning of a flood of refugees in case war broke out and cautioning Moscow not to play into the hands of United States.

The editorials were carried by Iran's IRNA agency and the Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Nicosia.

The English-language Kayhan International of Tehran:

"(We hope for a happy ending to the Iraq-U.S. standoff, (but) there is also a complete lack of ideas about that might allow the two sides to disengage...."

"It should be obvious that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein will not bow to the threat of superior U.S. arms without what will be a very bloody conflict, whose time limit cannot be predicted."

"One-third of oil being traded on the market is from Saudi Arabia. Those fields will be targeted and if the fields are not crippled, the world force will flee."

"Those with eyes to see will quickly realise that if hostilities

erupt, Iran could well be host to four million more refugees.

"In that case, borders of Kuwait with Saudi Arabia and the Iraqi borders with Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia will all be potential or actual war theatres...."

"Now it is time to rapidly mobilise logistics needs and resources to prepare for a possible massive exodus... contingency planning is an urgent necessity to relieve what could be a human tragedy of immense proportions at the Iran-Iraq border."

The English-language Baghdad Observer:

"(The United States) has turned to Moscow in the hope that it still retains the traditional influence among Arabs and that Shevardnadze's U.N. speech would shake the Arabs' self-confidence...."

"Princ's Shevardnadze should be aware that his words would be needed only when he is seen by sincere Arabs as a friend. He must not carry favour with petrodollars and the tycoons of vice and pleasure, because he is going to antagonise most Arabs."

Non-aligned nations differ over choice of Iraq for meeting site

HAVANA (R) — A number of non-aligned countries have objected to the choice of Iraq as the venue for a meeting to coordinate the Non-Aligned Movement's information strategy, a senior Cuban official said.

Carlos Aldana, secretary to the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, told Cuban Television that Iraq earlier this week had offered to host the next meeting of the movement's inter-governmental coordinating information policy.

"The Asian group backed the proposal by Iraq, which offered itself as venue because at that moment there was really no other venue (on offer)," Aldana said at the end of this week's meeting in Havana of non-aligned information ministers.

The choice of Iraq was adopted but while it had the backing of some countries it soon became apparent that it was contested by others. No date was given for the proposed meeting.

"There are a number of countries which object to this choice and have presented reserva-

tions," Aldana said. Cuba, acting as president of the Havana ministerial meeting, would examine and evaluate the reservations.

Aldana said that whether Baghdad could practically host a meeting of this kind or not would anyway depend on the development of the situation in the Gulf, where the U.S. and its allies have mounted a military and economic blockade against Iraq because of its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Cuba has condemned the Iraqi invasion but opposes the blockade and has called for a negotiated solution.

A separate resolution in Havana choosing North Korea as the venue for the 1993 meeting of non-aligned information ministers was approved unanimously, Aldana said.

At the Havana meeting, the ministers agreed to step up their efforts to coordinate their information policies and create a new world information order that would give developing nations an equal voice to rich, developed countries.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Americans protest against intervention

EUGENE, Oregon (R) — Several hundred demonstrators held rallies in three cities in the northwestern state of Oregon in protest against U.S. intervention in the Gulf and a possible U.S. attack on Iraq. About 125 protesters who gathered for one rally in the city of Eugene listened to speakers advocating peace and held signs saying "Life is more precious than oil," "Peace not oil," and "Stop U.S. intervention in the Gulf." "I think that a war over oil isn't worth American lives," said Randy Prince, a rally organiser. "We need peace in the Middle East and we need to find a way out of our dependence on foreign oil." Several speakers at the rally said the United States should move quickly to adopt renewable energy alternatives such as solar and wind power to substitute for imported oil. At one rally in the state capital of Salem a man repeatedly shouted "cowards" at the demonstrators, but no incidents or arrests were reported.

'U.S. refuses Taiwan offer of funds'

LOS ANGELES (R) — The United States, in a move to avoid antagonising China, turned down an offer by Taiwan to contribute about \$100 million to help pay for military operations in the Gulf, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday. In a report from Washington, the newspaper quoted what it described as diplomatic sources with direct knowledge of the offer as saying it was made during a recent visit to Washington by Taiwan's Vice Foreign Minister C.J. Chen. China opposes any action that could be seen as conveying official U.S. recognition of the government of Taiwan. U.S. officials were said to have suggested the Taiwan government give the money to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, three countries that have been financially pressed by the Gulf crisis.

Sri Lankans join Iraqi volunteers

COLOMBO (R) — One thousand Sri Lankans have volunteered to join Iraq to fight American forces if war broke out in the Gulf, the state-run Sunday Observer said on Sunday. The newspaper quoted Iraqi Ambassador in Colombo Tariq Ahmad Maroof as saying: Iraq plans to recruit Sri Lankans for their war against U.S. imperialism and already 1,000 applications of Sri Lankan Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims have been finalised." Maroof confirmed the report and said the Sri Lankans and Arabs were among thousands who had volunteered their services. There are at least 80,000 Sri Lankan workers stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, according to Colombo officials.

Turkey to discuss federation with N. Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut will discuss forming a federation with breakaway North Cyprus during a visit next week, a senior official in the self-proclaimed government said Saturday. Akbulut starts a three-day visit to the Turkish-held north on Monday as Greek-Cypriot President George Vassiliou takes the salute in southern Nicosia to celebrate 30 years of independence. The official said that during Akbulut's three-day visit a joint declaration would be signed announcing increased support for the north after the Greek-Cypriot application to join the European Community. Turkey would reiterate it would continue to protect Turkish Cypriots in the mini-state which is recognised only by Ankara, he said.

Conserve water ...
Every drop Makes a difference

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary
16:10 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:00 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
21:10 Sharon's Deal
22:00 News in English
22:30 French feature film "Une Mère de Trop"

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:25 Dhuhur
14:00 'Asr
17:40 Maghrib
18:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidia Tel. 810740
Automobiles of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The Kingdom will be affected by a cold air mass. Therefore, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be north-westerly fresh, causing dust in desert

across. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly fresh wind and wavy sea.

Amman Min./max. temp. 14 / 24
Aqaba 21 / 33
Desert 15 / 30
Jordan Valley 21 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Tawfiq Qab'it 623029
Dr. Tawfiq Qab'it 770046
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 657909
First pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 782336
Al Assam pharmacy 637063
Naironah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 657660

AMBULANCE:
Dr. Ziad Al Bakri 630441
Al Shamsa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Rabea Atallah 669131
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111,
Civil Defence telephone 630441
Rescue 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information 121

Overseas Calls 910230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

RJ Flight information 06-53200

Queen Aila Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642281/6

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsat 664171/4

Shamsat Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/27

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Indian, Al-Mahajira 777101/3

Al-Basir, J. Amman 771112/6

Army, Marha 891611/15

Queen Aila Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674135

ZARQA:
Zarqa Court Hospital (09)983323

Al-Basir, J. Amman (09)991071

Im Shams Hospital (09)986732

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Im Al-Nefes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:00 Damascus (RJ)
18:15 Riyadh (RJ)
18:30 Dhahran (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Jeddah (RJ)
18:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
18:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Unauthorised Saudi visit behind dissolution of Maan council

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Cabinet decision to dissolve the municipal council of Maan was prompted by an unauthorised visit to Saudi Arabia by the southern town's mayor.

The minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, Abdul Karim Dughmi, confirmed that the dissolution, which was announced by the Cabinet Saturday, came after it was found that the mayor, Mousa Khalaf Fayyad, had visited eastern Saudi Arabian town of Tabuk earlier this month. But the minister rejected reports that a pro-Saudi stance of the mayor had resulted in the dismissal of the council.

"The visit was made without prior approval from the ministry," which is in charge of all municipal and rural councils in the country, the minister told the Jordan Times.

Fayyad visited Tabuk in mid-September and following the visit

he published advertisements in local newspapers expressing "profound thanks" for the hospitality accorded to him by the governor of Tabuk. The trip and the expressions of thanks, which came at a time when obvious strains appeared in Jordanian-Saudi relations over the Gulf crisis, had puzzled many.

Dughmi said he could not confirm or deny whether Fayyad was detained for two days upon his return from Saudi Arabia. Other officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said Fayyad was "questioned" over "certain administrative" problems.

Repeated phone calls to Fayyad in Maan went unanswered Sunday.

Security sources said at least two Saudi nationals were detained in the town, which lies about 150 kilometres north from the Saudi border, after they were found "involved in questionable activities among the local community."

No official at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Amman could be reached for comment.

Several residents of Maan, contacted by the Jordan Times, said the Maanis, who have traditionally close links with the Saudis across the border, resented what one of them described as "Saudi interference in Jordan's internal affairs."

"We are very much Jordanian and we will remain so," said a shopkeeper reached over the phone. "If anyone thinks that we could be influenced by wealth, then let him rethink his plans," he said.

Dughmi rejected reports that the dismissal of the council was related to any "pro-Saudi campaign" in Maan.

"Even if the mayor had visited Iraq, Syria or any other country in his official capacity, but without prior permission from the ministry, the same action would have been taken," Dughmi told the Jordan Times.

Saturday's Cabinet decision said the council was dissolved and an ad hoc committee was named to run the town's affairs until the expiry of the term of the dissolved council. Dughmi said the committee would serve for about two years before new elections would be held for a new municipal council for the town of about 35,000 residents.

Saudi Arabia cut off oil supplies to Jordan and reduced the number of diplomats and staff at the Jordanian Embassy in what was seen as Riyadh's expression of anger at Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis, further compounded by Amman hosting a pan-Arab conference which issued a hardline statement and Jordanian media criticising the Saudi leadership. But Jordan has sought to play down the rift, opting for quiet diplomacy in its relations with Saudi Arabia.

Senior officials have said that the government does not intend to retaliate for the Saudi expulsion of Jordanian diplomats.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday attends a religious ceremony on the eve of Prophet Mohammad's birthday (Photo Yusef Al 'Allan)



King attends prayers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday attended a religious ceremony organised by the Ministry of Awaqaf and Religious Affairs on the eve of Prophet Mohammad's birthday Monday.

Among the speakers at the ceremony was Minister of Awaqaf Ali Al Faghi, who urged Muslims to follow in the footsteps of the Prophet and steer away from corruption and evil doing, and remain faithful to his teachings and the Islamic faith.

The Kingdom's Mufti Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi addressed the ceremony dwelling on the same theme. He said that selfishness and hatred should be

avoided since they blind people from their religious duty before God.

Referring to the foreign presence in the Arabian Peninsula, the mufti said that the "main aim of the imperialist invasion is directed against Islam at its most sacred places," and the colonial powers are sowing seeds of dissension to draw a wedge among Muslims and to split the ranks of the Islamic Nation.

"The Islamic Nation is currently living through bitter days and going through one of the most crucial stages of its history, but these difficult circumstances offer the Muslims a chance to consolidate their ranks and stand fast in

the face of the danger and the common threat," the mufti said.

"Like all the other battles in which the Muslims fought against the invaders and the infidels, the Muslims will struggle against injustice and against evil and come out victorious," he added.

He warned that the "Zionist enemy is seizing this opportunity, when the Arab Nation is divided, to try to carry out its conspiracies and achieve its evil objectives in the holy land of Palestine and against Al Aqsa Mosque."

By killing the innocent women and children and committing all forms of atrocities against the people of Palestine, he said, the Israelis are violating all principles

and laws while the world watches on without lifting a finger to help the helpless population.

The mufti paid tribute to King Hussein who, he said, spent his whole life defending the holy land and extending support and backing for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against injustice.

Along with King Hussein, the ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, senior officials and high ranking army officers.

Palestinian ambassador denounces U.S. policy

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim Sunday said that the United States does not want to see any strong state in the region, save Israel, and it missed up its forces to weaken Iraq, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Abdul Rahim noted that the cohesion among Iraq, Jordan and PLO has contributed to restoring the strategic balance to the region.

Addressing a public rally in Whidat Saturday, Abdul Rahim said the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait had dealt a severe blow to the American plans, which made use of the weak Kuwait to weaken Iraq, the PLO and Jordan.

He said that the Iraqi president's initiative to solve the current Gulf crisis, and linking any solution to the Palestine question was an excellent initiative, which received the full support of the PLO, King Hussein, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Tunisian

President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali.

Abdul Rahim said that Americans and some Arab leaders do not want this link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, despite the wide approval it received regionally and worldwide.

Abdul Rahim said that the Palestinian initiative called for spontaneous withdrawals from Syria and Lebanon, with special arrangements for the Gulf crisis and freezing the embargo on Iraq.

He said that the initiative was presented to the U.S. government, the European Community and the Soviet Union. However, he noted, the Americans rejected it because "they want to push the region to the verge of explosion, insisting on unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait."

Abdul Rahim said that the American insistence was prompted by the "genuine desire to establish American bases in the region, particularly in the Arab peninsula, after they have lost their bases in Europe." He said that the U.S. was about to enter Kuwait when the Iraqi forces overtook it.

Jordan marks 'Arab Child Day'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday observes — "Arab Child Day" with activities and programmes focusing on children and with their participation in various functions. This year's celebration will be held under the slogan "Arab Children: Hand in Hand to Confront the Challenges," and will involve various voluntary and charitable organisations like Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) and Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NAHF) as well as schools and other institutions.

QAF announced in a statement Sunday that its various branches and centres in the Kingdom would organise visits by children to several tourist and archaeological sites, to public gardens and factories in the country. Seminars will focus on the needs of children; drawing and painting competitions will be organised too.

Leaflets and booklets will be also distributed at the centres highlighting the rights of the Arab child, and gifts will be distributed to needy children.

According to NAHF Director General Inam Al Mufti, this year's activities will focus attention on children's contribution to the nation and ways to enhance Arab children's sense of national

belonging in the face of challenges posed to the Arab Nation. She said that the activities, which will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, include programmes on first aid and rescue operations, instructions to children on spending less and the importance of shelters, to provide protection in times of war.

According to Mufti, activities in the first week of this month will orient children on cultural, health and social matters through seminars to be organised in various parts of the country.

On the eve of the celebration, an official statement published by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Gulf crisis was bound to leave a negative impact on the country and subsequently on its children in view of the heavy losses inflicted on the national economy.

The statement said that the needy families, below the poverty line, were bound to increase from the present 20 per cent to 40 per cent, and that unemployment would increase from 18 per cent to 25 per cent by the end of 1990, with devastating consequences on the condition of children.

Economist calls for self-reliance

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab economic, social and security challenges cannot be met at country level, but at regional level, according to Bassam Al Saket, a Jordanian economist.

Saket, who spoke on Jordan Television Sunday, said the instability in the region was the outcome of challenges posed to the countries of the region by external factors, the most important of which was the Israeli expansion at the expense of the Arab countries.

Saket noted that the recent developments in the Gulf had demonstrated the importance of self-reliance and the need to do without the consumption and so-

cial patterns applied in the West. He called for adherence to the original Arab values and for adopting a self-sustained development.

Also speaking on television was Jawad Al Anani, the presenter of the weekly televised economic programme, who said that Arab development aid in 1987 amounted to \$32.8 billion, or 1.3 per cent of the Arab national gross product.

The contribution of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states totalled \$32.4 billion. He said that 53.8 per cent of this aid went to Arab states, while the remaining percentage went to foreign countries.

Swedish pacifists say all U.N. resolutions must be implemented

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A letter of appeal published by Leila Halasa in the Jordan Times on Sept. 4, sent to the media of the world and to international peace organisations, including Children's International Summer Villages, the Great Peace Journey, Life Link and the "Peoples of the United Nations," was answered by the Great Peace Journey, Swedish branch officials. They had presented a copy of Halasa's appeal letter to embassies of countries who had sent military forces to the Middle East.

"More and more military power is being sent to the area (Middle East). It is said to be the biggest troop movement since World War II. No more military forces and weapons are needed in the area. The mere presence of military forces increases tensions and risks of war. Political and diplomatic solutions should be given priority over military solutions," the letter said.

"The international community must also show concern for the Iraqi population who must not be starved, especially not women and children. In Security Council

Resolution 661 it is stated that economic sanctions exclude medicine and medical equipment and in certain cases, as 'in humanitarian circumstances,' also food," the letter read.

The letter also showed support for the plight of the Palestinian children in the occupied territories. "We think that the hopeful reinforcement of international law that has developed during the Iraq-Kuwait conflict also should be applied in other areas, e.g. in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 regarding the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should be implemented immediately. Our organisations have for a long time supported a two-state solution," the letter read.

The letter of appeal written by Leila Halasa is an example of many letters of appeal, some published in the Jordan Times, sent to U.S. president, to the American people, to the British Prime Minister Thatcher to the secretary general of the United Nations and to world leaders gathered for the World Summit for Children taking place in New York Sept. 29-30.

Jordan, Germany sign agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Sunday announced its ratification of a memorandum of understanding with Germany on the implementation of the Zarqa River basin project.

Under the terms of the memorandum, Germany will provide specialists and equipment and will pay the cost of a programme for the development of land for agriculture and increasing the area of farmland within the basin.

According to a statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the total cost to be covered by the German government towards the implementation of the scheme will amount to \$300,000.

Work on the Zarqa River basin project began in 1987 and according to Ministry of Agriculture officials, it is scheduled to be completed by 1993.

The project, in which several other parties are involved, is being financed by Arab and foreign funds, including the Islamic Development Bank.

It aims at developing safe land use, soil conservation and improved farming techniques on a farm-by-farm basis.

Ministry experts said that the project was expected to help halt the present rate of erosion in the basin, reduce silting in the King Talal dam and improve farm income on a sustainable basis.

The reservoir behind the King Talal dam is continuously being used to irrigate lands in the Jordan Valley, which produces most of the country's crops.

Housing Corporation to provide houses for limited income groups

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation plans to work closely with the private sector involved in the housing operations to provide homes for limited income groups in Jordan, according to Housing Corporation Director Yusef Hiyasat.

Speaking on the eve of the Arab Housing Day and the International Shelter Day, which is to be observed in Jordan Monday, Hiyasat said that "finding decent homes for the limited income groups is a must, and it is part of the overall socio-economic development process in the country."

"The Housing Corporation will support and encourage housing projects for workers near their factories or farms or near their own businesses as part of an overall national strategy on housing," said Hiyasat in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The problem of finding homes for the evergrowing population continues to face all govern-

Norway, EC, U.S. send relief supplies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Norway Sunday sent a plane load of relief supplies as a gift from the Norwegian Red Cross to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) to help it offer assistance to the evacuees arriving in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

A representative of the Norwegian Red Cross said that the shipment comprised 11 tonnes of powdered milk and the plane would repatriate 120 Egyptians on its way back home.

The Norwegian Red Cross had sent three earlier shipments to the JNRCS in response to an appeal by the latter issued last month.

The arrival of the Norwegian relief assistance coincided with the arrival here of a team of doctors working for the Indian Red Cross who held a meeting with the JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura to discuss ways of providing relief assistance to the evacuees.

Abu Qoura said later that the team would be joining the Jordanian doctors working at the two JNRCS camps at Azraq caring for Indian nationals.

Abu Qoura had talks earlier with Michel Coners, executive director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to discuss relief operations for the evacuees in Jordan. They also reviewed topics to be discussed by the ICRC, the JNRCS, and the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These organisations are to meet here soon to look into means to organise and coordinate relief operations for the evacuees.

Abu Qoura also met with a team of the Red Crescent Society in the United Arab Emirates

(UAE) and said later that the UAE would soon embark on a plan to contribute to the repatriation of evacuees from Bangladesh in cooperation with JNRCS.

JNRCS said in a statement Saturday that the total expatriates now housed at its two camps in Azraq is 29,230.

The JNRCS's teams of doctors, the statement said, had offered medical treatment to 1,653 expatriates and referred 50 of them to hospital. The statement noted that the average number of daily arrivals at the Azraq camps is 2,000 and JNRCS supervises the process of providing them with food and shelter.

Meanwhile two hundred tonnes of dried skimmed milk powder donated by the European Community (EC) as food aid to evacuees stranded in Jordan was delivered Sept. 29 by truck from Aqaba to Ministry of Supply warehouses in Amman. The shipment of milk powder is the first instalment of emergency food aid allocated by the European Commission in response to the government of Jordan's request for assistance in coping with the influx of Asian and other nationals departing from Iraq and Kuwait.

A second ship is scheduled to arrive in Aqaba on Oct. 4 loaded with 3,753 tonnes of wheat, intended also for free distribution to evacuees and to replenish government stocks already dispatched to the transit camps. The total allocation of emergency food aid intended for Jordan is 9,000 tonnes of wheat, 500 tonnes of vegetable oil, 500 tonnes of rice, 200 tonnes of lentils and 200 tonnes of milk powder. The food aid will be distributed by the Jordanian authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

C-141 military aircraft ferrying Asian nationals ended Sept. 27 with the airlifting of 120 Philippine nationals to Manila. The first such flight on Sept. 21 unloaded blankets, cots, and medical supplies and left the next day (Sept. 22) for Colombo, with 120 Sri Lankan nationals aboard. The same aircraft returned to Amman on Sept. 24 and transported 123 Bangladeshi nationals (120 adults and 3 children) to Dhaka.

To date, the European Community has pledged a total of \$107.6 million in grants to assist Jordan in receiving, feeding, sheltering and transporting the Gulf evacuees. Of this, \$76.6 million has been provided from the budget of the European Commission, and the balance from bilateral contributions of the member states.

The airlift of Asian nationals continues, with EC financed chartered aircraft carrying an average 3,750 persons per day, roughly 50 per cent of the total number flown out daily from Amman.

U.S. contribution In coordination with the Royal Jordanian Air Force, U.S. military aircraft have been landing in Jordan to unload humanitarian supplies and to transport displaced Asian nationals to their homelands.

Since this humanitarian mission began Sept. 18, a series of three flights by military C-5 aircraft have unloaded 4,500 tents, numerous blankets, pillows and pillow cases, sleeping cots, medical supplies, and an assortment of other relief supplies for the immediate needs of people arriving in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

C-141 military aircraft ferrying Asian nationals ended Sept. 27 with the airlifting of 120 Philippine nationals to Manila. The first such flight on Sept. 21 unloaded blankets, cots, and medical supplies and left the next day (Sept. 22) for Colombo, with 120 Sri Lankan nationals aboard. The same aircraft returned to Amman on Sept. 24 and transported 123 Bangladeshi nationals (120 adults and 3 children) to Dhaka.

Local cereals' buying prices similar to international rates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Sunday decided to buy locally grown cereals at prices almost equal to international rates, reversing earlier practices of purchasing the crops at much higher rates than the international prices.

The announcement came in a statement which set the new prices for each commodity for the coming agricultural season.

According to the new set of prices, government centres, which normally purchase the crops from farmers in the Jordan Valley, the southern regions and the northern parts of the country, will from now on buy wheat at the rate of JD 147 per tonne, barley at JD 105 per tonne, lentils at JD 265 per tonne and chickpeas at JD 350 per tonne.

The statement said that the Ministry of Agriculture would continue to sell seeds for sowing at rates as before, although it buys them for higher prices from the local producers in a bid to encourage farmers to produce more.

The statement said that the ministry would sell one tonne of

wheat, as seeds for sowing, for JD 140, down from the purchasing price of JD 175, barley at JD 100 from JD 105, lentils at JD 320 from JD 265 and chickpeas for JD 300 from JD 390.

Arabiya said that the new prices are nearer to the international rates, and the move came with the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. He said that the government would be buying the cereals directly from the farmers without middlemen.

Arabiya called on the farmers to increase production of wheat, barley and other cereals so as to help Jordan ensure self-sufficiency of food commodities and reduce dependence on foreign sources.

Following the announcement, the minister visited the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer and discussed with the agricultural engineers means of increasing Jordan's wheat and barley production and boosting the country's produce of animal feed in the coming agricultural season.

Arabiya later visited the dairy farm in Duleil near Zarqa

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zure displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosehalla (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — A Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Cultural History of Urban Petra in the Light of the Multi-National Archaeological Excavations" by Dr. Kenneth Russell at ACOR — 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1972.
 جريدة الأردن عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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 Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667117/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
 Jordan Times advertising department.

Worthy message

CROWN Prince Hassan's visit to the United States and his talks there as well as at the United Nations are yet another attempt by Jordan to explain fully its position on the Gulf crisis and depict the harsh economic consequences for our country resulting from abiding by U.N. Security Council resolutions. In the process Prince Hassan asked pointed questions at his press conference Saturday that have yet to be answered by Washington and its allies. "Does the hatred that brought together an alliance unprecedented in modern political history," Prince Hassan asked, "go beyond the opposition to the (Iraqi) invasion of Kuwait to include anyone and everyone on the basis of you're not on the team?" In other words, are Washington and its close allies in the conflict going to let Jordan sink into deeper economic turmoil for daring to express a different, albeit honest, opinion that aims to save the lives and future of Americans and Iraqis and others?

The Crown Prince went on to remind his American audience that Jordan has effectively wiped 50 per cent off its GNP because of its faithful adherence to the Security Council sanctions against Iraq. "Is it expected that Jordan commit economic suicide?" he went on to ask. In effect, what the Crown Prince has been suggesting is that there is being deliberately strangled for asking that there be no embargo on dialogue in the Gulf conflict because the alternative to negotiation is obviously war and destruction. As the West claims credit for having taught the world the viability of rationalism, the Jordanians are simply asking the mentors of rational thought to practice what they have been preaching for generations to other societies which are often accused of emotional outbursts in reaction to conflicts and disputes. And as honest differences of opinion is a cardinal feature of the Western type of democracy that the Middle East is constantly called upon to learn and practice, one is at a loss to see the virtue of silencing Jordan for merely having the intellectual and moral courage to speak out in defence of peace in the Gulf.

There will come a time when instead of lambasting the Kingdom for standing out from the crowd to ask that peace be given a chance, the world will think otherwise. And by peace one has in mind to allow the process of negotiation to proceed unhindered by hate and vengeance. Iraq is not the first country to invade another country nor will it be the last. Iraq learned the art of invasion from many countries of the world including the U.S. and its resort to military action to rectify history and long grievances with Kuwait is precedent. In other words, the Iraqi military action did not occur in a vacuum nor could a solution be found in a vacuum either. The least that one would expect the international community to do now is to promote the process of negotiations on the basis of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy and historical facts taken together. This is in essence the message that Jordan has been trying to send all along. It is a message of peace worthy of attention and understanding.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily on Sunday called on China and the rest of the international community to abort President Bush's attempts to force the Security Council to legalise the use of force in the Gulf to force Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. The paper said that pressure is being exerted on Peking to support the U.S. move to force the council to issue such a resolution which would not be conducive to peace in the Gulf. The achievement of a peaceful settlement can by no means come through the use of force but rather requires a dialogue and quiet diplomacy, conducted through the United Nations, said the paper. Washington has made it clear that it was seeking a Security Council resolution that would legalise the use of force in the Gulf, regardless of the victims that would fall as a result of such rash action, and in total disregard to the interests of other nations as long as the American war machine is kept rolling and imperialist goals of hegemony are attained, the paper noted. The United States is trying to involve the world community in a futile and costly war that can never serve the interests of mankind but is thought suitable to serve the selfish interests of the United States and its allies, the paper said. Even if Bush achieved his designs in the Gulf, said the paper, he would go down in history as a criminal who had turned his back to peace, and caused untold sufferings and devastation to the world.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily heaps praise on Switzerland for its decision to send \$13 million worth of medical supplies to Iraq. Salah Abdul Samad says that Switzerland has proved that it can defy the unjustified sanctions imposed on Iraq and that it is concerned with human beings and their fate. The decision to send medical supplies to the Iraqis for humanitarian reasons has a human dimension, and reflects Switzerland's brave stand when it comes to the lives of innocent civilians, the writer notes. Indeed, this noble action on the part of Switzerland can only draw welcome and gratitude not only from the Iraqi people but the Arab masses at large, said the writer. Sending medical supplies to the Iraqi people is definitely not a political decision but it is certainly a show of solidarity among humans and a rejection of inhuman resolutions and actions on the part of a number of nations hostile to the Arab Nation, the writer adds. Abdul Samad urges the Arab people and voluntary and charitable organisations in Jordan to express their appreciation to this noble gesture.

Weekly Political Pulse

The first question that comes to mind in Jordan every morning these days is whether was in the Gulf is just around the corner. Few Jordanians bother to ask if peace in the region is within reach because there is a consensus, that the wounds that were opened up by the Gulf crisis are too deep to be healed within the foreseeable future.

Knowledgeable people, however, argue that the war option is so insane that it is not probable. Suffice to not that the price of oil will climb to no less than \$ 80 a barrel at the sound of the first shot in the Gulf. Ones does not need to be a wizard to understand what such a dramatic rise in the

price of oil would do to the economies of the countries of the world for many years to come. The dislocations in the global economy would be so catastrophic that only a fool would trigger such a war. In pure economic term, the cumulative cost of such a military adventure in the Gulf could figuratively speaking be more than the "total weight of Kuwait in gold."

Then one would have to reckon with the military cost of any such outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf. In terms of human casualties, the tally ranges from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dead military and civilians caught in the war zone. And all seasoned

military experts concede that a war in the Gulf would not be a picnic for either Iraq or the West. In spite of all the talk about the ability of the West to knock out the electronic systems of Iraq in a matter of hours, there are still haunting reports about the ability of Iraq to also play havoc with some of the West's systems of communication. The ultimate winner could very well be the West but the price would be so exorbitant and ridiculous. Thus the folly of the war option is so obvious to all those who want to see it.

Against such a backdrop, one should be being to promote the negotiate settlement option. The peace initiative

presented last week by the French President Francois Mitterand goes a long way to offer such an option provided, it is allowed to nurture and develop. The French plan has already rallied enough initial support including some faint positive signals from Baghdad that makes it quite operational in due course. The fact that the French formula is sugar-coated with conciliatory words makes it all the more amenable for acceptance by Iraq. Iraq has demonstrated time and again that it does not respond favourably to pressure, if the world is genuine searching for a peaceful way out of the Gulf agmire, then it has to learn

from this latest French prescription for peace in the Gulf area.

One swift glance at any classic book about diplomacy and negotiations would readily reveal that in order to promote negotiations, the parties concerned must endeavour to show how both sides to the negotiating process stand to gain something or another. This ABC approach to fruitful negotiations must be resorted to in Gulf crisis. Translated into real terms, such a pragmatic way of conducting negotiations with Iraq would necessarily entail yielding of some compromises by both sides. Without compromises from both sides of the equation any

negotiations over the Kuwaiti situation would be doomed before they start.

So the art of negotiations which has been proven right time and again throughout the history of mankind call for the beginning of the process of examining the areas where compromises be exchanged between Iraq on one hand and Riyadh and Washington on the other. By dismissing outright any possibility of compromises, the world would have to revert to the war option which as agreed by all sane people is not a tenable option. In conclusion, the name of the game in the Gulf should be compromises, albeit sensible and fair.

Compromise vs. confrontation

Gulf heading for war, the big question is when

By John Baggaley

Reuters

NICOSIA — Slowly but inexorably, two mighty forces in the Gulf appear to be moving towards the ultimate option — war.

The big question is when. Some diplomats and military analysts predict the crunch could come at the end of October. Others say February next year.

Two months after Iraq's troops swept into Kuwait on August 2 and an outraged world told Saddam Hussein to pull them out, words like "military solution" and "unstable" down talk of "peace initiatives" and "Arab solution".

Iraq, dropping references to peace moves, predicts the "mother of all battles" and "coming fire".

U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Coeller, speaks of being discouraged and not hearing any talk of peace.

Like pieces on a chess

board, the armour, planes and warships are moving into place. A U.S.-dominated international force of more than 300,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen — including Saudi and other Gulf troops — faces 400,000 Iraqis entrenched in occupied Kuwait and southern Iraq.

Middle East analysts and diplomats say both sides are under tremendous pressure. Few think the stalemate can last and most discount Iraq withdrawing from Kuwait.

The U.S.-led alliance faces pressure from Western public opinion — which dislikes costly, inactive troops far from home — and governments unable to help their nationals held by Iraq to discourage any attack.

The military buildup, the need to support frontline states upholding sanctions against Baghdad, and huge oil price increases are also hitting the economies of Iraq's opponents.

Pressure on Iraq is also in-

tense. Sanctions have strangled Baghdad's oil export lifeblood and severed basic imports, including food. But many of the analysts believe the Iraqis — with rationing and suffering — can hold out at least for a year.

"The big question no one is answering is at what point it becomes imperative for the United States to look at options other than sanctions," Don Kerr of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London told Reuters at the weekend.

U.S. national security adviser Brent Scowcroft hinted at an answer.

"There's no question that what's happening in Kuwait affects the timetable," for a peaceful solution, he said at a news briefing after Kuwait's ousted Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah told President George Bush that Iraq was destroying his country.

U.S. intelligence reports that Iraq will have a significant number of biological weapons

to throw into battle in a few months could also affect the timetable.

The Washington Post said congressional leaders understood from discussions with Bush that the administration was considering "an early war option".

Britain, which with France has committed more firepower to the Gulf than of Washington's Western allies, sent an even clearer signal.

As Britain's headline Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher headed for Gulf strategy talks with Bush at the weekend, the Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in an interview with the United Arab Emirates semi-official paper Al Itihad:

"We have not yet decided on a military solution. We still have a few weeks after which we will take a decision in the light of the situation."

"The emphasis at the moment is on building up the peaceful pressure but at a certain stage all concerned will need to take stock of progress

on that front".

Most analysts believe that the U.N. blockade will take much longer than a few weeks more to bite.

Kerr said: "I think the United States must think in terms of a long period. They should think in terms of a year — and be delighted if it takes less".

A Cairo-based Western diplomat said: "Technically, the West can keep troops there indefinitely".

But he added: "It may be two or three months (and) Washington and its allies will seriously consider the military option if sanctions prove ineffective".

Other analysts suggest late October will see a military strike, when the troops rushed to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf are in place and still relatively fresh.

Fred Haliday, professor of international relations at the London School of Economics, said if Saddam did not pull out of Kuwait — and he did not think this would happen soon

— he favoured the "February 15 military option" school of thinking.

"All the armaments will be in place, the weather will be cooler by February, and sanctions will have been given a chance".

One Western diplomat said Saddam appeared to be sitting tight and waiting for cracks to appear in the U.N. air and sea blockade.

Haliday also saw problems for long-term solidarity against Baghdad, suggesting the West was indulging in some wishful thinking.

"People in the Arab World don't like the Americans (being) in Saudi Arabia," he said.

Can Saddam afford to pull out? Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, who has sent thousands of troops to Saudi Arabia, predicts he will be overruled. Kerr says Saddam gave too much away in suing for peace with Iran to secure his eastern flank.

Jordan asks for cash aid

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan) is not sufficient at all," he said.

What Hamad left unsaid was what many officials describe as the "meaningless monopoly" of various international relief organisations which, having received contributions in cash, have taken charge of the evacuation process. Some of these organisations have been criticised for overlooking the actual overhead expenses that Jordan has been forced to pay to facilitate the flow of the evacuees.

According to Hamad, the issue of evacuees and the Jordanian role and the expenses it has paid in the evacuation process should not be confused with the economic hardships faced by the Kingdom as a result of the Gulf crisis and the imposition of sanctions against Iraq.

"These are two separate issues," he said. The Evacuee Welfare Committee has very little to do with the political aspects of the sanctions and the hardships they have brought in since its only concern to ensure a very smooth process of evacuation through Jordanian territory and the question is why should the Jordanian government, already straining under financial burdens, be asked to shoulder the expenses involved in the process.

"Confusion prevails over the problem of evacuees, the services provided by the Evacuee Welfare Committee and the ensuing debts it has incurred, the economic hardships facing Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis and the Kingdom's commitment to the United Nations Security Council resolutions," Hamad told the press conference.

Jordan has received in-kind assistance such as tents, blankets, medicine, food etc. But that does not solve the problem of the committee in meeting expenses related to water, health care, electricity, internal transport etc. For the evacuees, Hamad explained.

At the same time, the committee also faces the problem of a huge backlog of evacuees

in the various transit camps in the country, Hamad said. He noted that international efforts and managed to bring down the backlog to around 30,000 by mid-September from 100,000 at the beginning of September but the number had gone up again to 43,000 by end of September "due to the simple reason that the number of daily arrivals was higher than the number of departures."

The official raised the prospect of new measures at the border post to check the inflow of evacuees. "I'm afraid I will have to request the government to adopt appropriate measures to ensure that the number of arrivals does not exceed the number of departures," he said.

Although he did not spell it out, such measures will result in tens of thousands of arrivals accumulated in the no-man's-land between Iraq and Jordan; in essence a repetition of the tales of misery and suffering in windwept, scorpion-plagued makeshift camps that hit international headlines in early September.

The situation assumes a grim significance when seen in light of the "reality that there are around two million people of various nationalities remaining in Iraq and Kuwait, that the winter season is approaching, and that rains are expected any time," Hamad said.

He said the committee was drawing up plans to set up facilities to accommodate about 150,000 evacuees. The plans also envisage "their departure from the country within a specified period of time."

In separate comments after the press conference, Hamad said: "We are trying to explain the reality of the situation to everyone. We stand in need of urgent funds to settle the debts of the committee and it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to function in the face of the mounting bills."

"Where are the \$100 million everyone is talking about?" he asked. "We have also heard about it, but where is it?"

LETTERS

'King-size' handouts

To the Editor:

THE King of Oil has finally agreed to give \$5 million in aid to the thousands of evacuees, fleeing Kuwait and Iraq through Jordan. Scared by the extraordinary buildup of foreign troops in the region, these evacuees, mainly Bangladeshi Muslims quit their jobs and fled an imminent war in search of a safe haven. Penniless and abandoned, not only by the international community, but also by their own countries, those evacuees were left stranded in camps, especially set up for them in Jordan, pending their repatriation.

Given their huge numbers and the daily influx of tens of thousands of evacuees into Jordan, whose financial and economic resources are so small to the extent that it can hardly meet the basic needs of its own people, Jordan has sought international help to cope with this unprecedented problem. But so far the level of aid extended by the international community has been short of meeting the basic needs of this human flood, which almost exhausted Jordan's supply stock.

Jordan, which stood up to shoulder this heavy burden for humanitarian considerations should not be left alone to suffer from a problem which is not of its own making. Therefore, it is incumbent on all the world countries to stand by Jordan, particularly at this difficult time, when the country has almost lost all its revenues from exports and imports through Aqaba Port, because of its observance of the United Nations Security Council resolution imposing economic sanctions on Iraq. Not only this,

but the country has also lost the meagre financial support which it used to receive in aid from some Arab oil rich countries, because of its principled stand.

While seeking help from the international community, Jordan is not asking for a handout, since the evacuees' problem is not a Jordanian affair, but a global humanitarian issue, which should receive world-wide attention and response. Unfortunately, the response on the part of the governments concerned is so far very limited, and is no more than a drop in a sea. World nations, particularly, Western Europe, Japan and the Sheikdoms of oil had acted promptly upon receiving instructions from the world's now only policeman, the U.S., by sending troops and pledging billions of dollars to quash the Arab will and to oppress the poor. These same countries have so far done very little, if anything, to alleviate the suffering of the evacuees. The King of Oil, who claims to be the custodian of Islam's two holy harams, has so far pledged \$5 billion to the U.S.-led "Operation Desert Shield," denies his Muslim brothers a few more millions. The so-called Muslim countries of the Gulf have pledged \$14 billion to the military buildup against Iraq, but did very little to ease the human suffering of the evacuees. It is hoped that the Saudi contribution of \$5 million will be the first drop in a downpour. It is also hoped that Arab countries will wake up from their slumber and live up to the expectations of their own people.

J. Azzeh
 Amman.

Saddam calls for dialogue to end Gulf crisis

(Continued from page 1)

they are all attending the U.N. General Assembly.

They agreed that even after an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, there would be no ending of Kuwaiti territory, such as the island of Bubiyan and Warba, to Iraq. This was disclosed by British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd in an interview with a Gulf newspaper Saturday.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi was quoted by his country's national news agency as saying that "political efforts to end the Gulf crisis have not yet started."

The U.N.-decreed economic embargo clamped on Iraq to pressure it to pull out "has not yet reached the extent when diplomatic efforts would be pertinent," he said.

"Over the coming few weeks it will be clear whether it is possible to solve the crisis by diplomacy and political means," he said. "The diplomatic efforts will start when the Security Council resolutions begin to bear fruit."

"We view the speech of the French president, despite certain reservations, as being of a different language, and we hope that our positive interpretation is correct," Saddam said.

annoy us, what annoys us is the grudge-filled baseless accusations by certain leaders unwilling to discuss our perceptions and interpretations," Saddam said.

"It is not important to agree or disagree with this initiative or that, including that of French President Mitterand."

"What is important is that a serious dialogue be launched in search of a possible, just and comprehensive solution that would allow peace to prevail and lay solid foundations for the future of the concerned people of the region that are not shaken by circumstantial changes," he said.

Saddam said: "We are launching contact with the French government with the aim of formulating a precise viewpoint, so that action could be launched on clear and solid foundations."

"Our main concern is that the situation that prevailed before Aug. 2 on all levels may not be repeated; that Palestine returns to its people, the Palestinians, so they can set up their independent state... and the foreign occupation forces depart from the land of Najd, Hejaz and the Gulf without any conditions."

policy of troop buildups and threats of the use of force."

Saddam openly withdrew his previous opposition to the involvement of foreign powers in the search of a settlement to the crisis.

He said: "Should the international community be involved in a solution to the crisis, then the emphasis should be on the initiative of Aug. 12, 1990,

which underlined that... peace could not be achieved without the settlement of all the problems of the region."

He said, "Withdrawal of foreign forces from the lands of Najd and Hejaz (Saudi Arabia) and the Arabian Gulf, and ending the blockade of Iraq, is a slogan for all Arabs and believers to raise."

Britain ready to use nuclear arms

(Continued from page 1)

Ireland and Luxembourg — Friday to discuss EC-Iran relations and the Gulf crisis.

The four ministers are attending the current U.N. General Assembly session.

"The two sides agreed on the need for total respect of the U.N. embargo against Iraq, as the only way to bring about a political solution, that both sides favour," said the statement issued by the Italian U.N. mission.

"The two sides also agreed on the need to seek in future regional cooperation to bring about peace, security and stability in the region," it added.

Cypriot President George Vassiliou Sunday denied foreign press reports claiming Cyprus was violating the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq.

tion of the independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait," Vassiliou said.

Addressing a news conference on the 30th anniversary of his war-divided island's independence, Vassiliou said: "There are great similarities between the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Turkish invasion of Cyprus."

"We want the U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait implemented because we feel just as strongly that the council's resolutions demanding Turkey's withdrawal from Cyprus should also be implemented."

Kuwait's toppled government declared Sunday that a recent decision by Iraq to cancel the Kuwaiti dinar was "null and void."

The government, at its temporary base in the Saudi Arabian mountain city of Taif, said the dinar was "null the official currency of Kuwait."

No longer concerned, they murder children

By Philip Palliella
Reporter

ROME — Twelve-year-old Andrea Esposito was in the wrong place at the wrong time and it cost him his life.

One morning in September he witnessed a brutal mafia ambush in a seedy wholesale produce market near Naples where he unloaded fruit crates before school to help his family get by.

After shooting the man they had come to kill, the gunmen from a clan of the Camorra, the Naples region branch of the mafia, turned their attention to those who had seen them.

Years ago, Andrea's tender age might have saved him. He might have got away with an icy warning to keep his mouth shut.

But as Andrea huddled in a corner crying out for mercy, one of the killers put a gun to the boy's head and fired twice.

The mafia and its offshoots have killed children before in their long and violent history. But such killings were rare. They were often by-products of attacks targeted at others and the mafia went to great pains to keep such killings quiet.

"One of the masterpieces of the mafia's self-generated public relations image has been to make people believe that 'men of hon-

our' kept women and children out of their conflicts," said sociologist Pino Arlacchi, an expert on the mafia.

Still, Andrea's execution, the second killing of a child by organised crime groups in two days, shocked and outraged a country largely inured to gangland violence.

"The killing of children now

a hunting rifle.

No longer concerned about a facade of honour, the killers made no effort to make sure children or other witnesses were not in the way when they attacked their targets.

Paolo and his father were the latest victims of a gangland feud between two Camorra clans in Castellammare Di Stabia, south of

the Camorra's two monolithic umbrella families into 106 rival clans fighting to control lucrative drug trafficking and extortion.

"Before, big flare-ups in organised crime violence occurred cyclically, every generation or so, when the young members took over from the old chiefs," said Arlacchi. "Now these conflicts are continuous, with a much higher number of dead."

Following the killings of the children, Italy's National Police Chief Vincenzo Parisi — usually a man of few words — gave a flurry of television and newspaper interviews to assure the country that the forces of law had the situation under control.

Parisi said the indiscriminate violence showed the Camorra was in a desperate panic because police were taking advantage of the break-up of the big families to crack down.

Not everybody agreed with Parisi's suggestion that the Camorra clans were going wild because they felt the heat.

Right-wing Senator Rafaele Valensise demanded that either the government give top priority to organised crime or admit the failure of its current strategy and start all over again.

"If not even this recent ferocity and brutality by the clans can dislodge the state into making a commitment in places where organised crime strikes out in an indiscriminate way, that means there is little hope of winning this war," he said.

The flare-up in the Naples area has coincided with a burst of fresh violence in Calabria, where more than 200 people have been killed this year by the ndrangheta, the poor southern mainland region's version of the mafia.

The violence in much of southern Italy has prompted country's Roman Catholic church to denounce organised crime with renewed vigour.

"This concerted position of the church, these bishops, these priests who speak out openly against the mafia, this is truly something historically important," said Arlacchi.

Throughout the country, priests, bishops and cardinals urged Italians to cut the life-line of organised crime by rebelling against "omerta," the mafia's honour code of silence.

"Those mouths and eyes which have been shut by brutality must finally make us open our mouths and our eyes to speak and see for them," said Bishop Antonio Riboldi, of Acerra, a Camorra-infested city near Naples.

Rome Cardinal Ugo Poletti accused Italian political parties of weakening the fight against organised crime by bickering too much about strategy.

Bishop Riboldi, who travels with a police escort because of Camorra death threats, called for a new mentality in mafia strongholds to break the crime cartels.

"There is no more time to make believe we don't see and don't know," he said.

'Those mouths and eyes which have been shut by brutality must finally make us open our mouths and our eyes to speak and see for them,' said Bishop Antonio Riboldi, of Acerra, a Camorra-infested city near Naples.'

occurs with much greater frequency and there is no attempt to hide it," Arlacchi said.

Two days before, eight-year-old Paolo Longobardi died when a gunman who had come to kill the boy's father sprayed their bedroom window with shots from



While children of the developed world enjoy the benefits of enormous wealth, children in the Third World work in appalling conditions to support themselves and their families (photo by J. Mailhard — ILO).

Equality for the weak

By Dr. Fathieh Sandi

The children of the world irrespective of their race, culture or religion, should enjoy the same rights, opportunities, liberties, education, health, development, and democratic rights. Is this simply a utopian slogan, or a realistic aim to struggle for? Could we hope that the world summit for children will put all the necessary efforts so that the struggle for these rights become a reality?

Why all this concern for children?

Children represent a large proportion of the world population. For example in the Arab World children represent over 50 per cent of its population.

The conditions of children in the areas of health, education, security and their preceptions of the world today are determinant factors of their future.

The fact that children are dependent on family, society and state means that they require special attention and protection to ensure their development and survival.

There is an increasing world concern for children's well-being promoted through United Nations agencies, such as UNICEF.

On the international level: It is agreed that concentrated efforts must be developed in some vital areas concerned with children's well-being. These main areas are:

Education

Every child in the world has the right to primary education. Man created the alphabet many thousands of years ago. The written language through which humans trace their civilisation is one of superior forms of communication. The reality is a hard story: today there exist about one billion illiterates of which 100 million are children, 98 per cent of illiterates are in the developing countries, and female illiteracy remains dominant. In addition, educational curricula, are far from responsive to child development and needs.

War and conflicts

Wars continue to be a major burden on children lives and well-being in developing countries. For example in Africa war is a

major cause of famine. There are over one million Ethiopian children who are deprived of the necessary food supplies as a consequence of war of conflicts. In Sudan, there are 1.5 million displaced people who have escaped from famine and war.

War, like cancer, is difficult to control or to stop. Arms, manufactured mainly by the "powerful" nations, are rarely used for self defence but often for aggression.

Can we hope that humans will some day refrain from using their intelligence to destruct each other? It is necessary to remember that developing countries spend over 50 per cent to 70 per cent budgets on military expenditure.

Health

Every child in the world should at least have access to primary health care. We know that 40,000 children under the age of five die every day in the developing countries, mainly caused by diseases that can be prevented. It is estimated that malnutrition, absence of clean water and sanitation are major factors for worsening the health of children world-wide. To mention some tragic figures: four million children under five die from diarrhoea annually; 3.5 million children die from six preventable diseases. Pregnant women are 20 times more likely to die in the Third World countries mainly during delivery. Furthermore, millions of children are malnourished, blind, brain-damaged and disabled due to variable preventable diseases.

It is important to remember that health budgets in the Third World are one-third of those in developed countries, thought health problems are alarming.

Today it is well recognised that major efforts should be made towards: universal child immunisation, oral rehydration therapy, acute respiratory infections control, malnutrition, maternal healthcare, adequate water and sanitation.

Child labour

It is regrettable that work continues to be a burden on children in several developing countries. Unfortunately, normal childhood seems to be reduced in some

countries where poverty compels children to become bread-earners.

About 50 million children under 15 years are working in difficult and hard conditions which are inappropriate for their age, and would harm their physical and mental development.

The majority of these children are in the Third World. In Egypt for example seven per cent of the total labour force are children in the six to 11 year group. Can we hope to see some prevention measures or at least regulation that protect working children? It is a fact that children's work historically used to be part of the family system which is protective, but at present it is part of the general labour market, dominated by the financial interest of employers.

Children need also to be protected against all kinds of violence and exploitation, including physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

Environment

"Today's generation is already suffering from negative environmental factors influencing survival and health. At present it is particularly important to impose drastic international measures of prevention and control to protect the present and future generations from irreversible environmental damages."

On the regional level: some issues seem to be more specifically related to the Middle East. The essential priorities to be considered are:

Future security and peace

Do the children of the Middle East have any kind of future security?

Political and armed conflicts have been and continue to have a permanent danger in the region. Children in the West Bank, Lebanon, the Sudan, and nowadays in Iraq are under continuous military danger. The children of the intifada are suffering from war injuries, imprisonment and psychological traumas. There is also a general ban on access to education. It is relevant to indicate that the Balfour declaration has mentioned that the creation of a national home for the Jews must not prejudice the rights of

the local inhabitants. It is clear that a just peace is a prelude to the well-being of children in the West Bank and Gaza. Also the new generation in Lebanon live with a strong feeling of division of identity, torn among the sense of belonging to a family, sect, religion and a nation.

Economic crisis

The present economic crisis in some countries of the Middle East have also negative influences on the already fragile existence of children. In some Arab countries the national per capita income has declined by about 50 per cent during the past few years. This has had serious implications on the conditions of nutrition, health and education of children.

We ask the World Summit For Children to adopt economic programmes that are more humane. We hope that this summit can convince the IMF to change its economic policies and ease pressure indebted such as the devastating measures employed for imposing currency devaluation, the suppression of state subsidies for basic foods... etc.

It is clear that development in the Third World countries was initiated with the help of developed countries to provide the basic needs of disadvantaged social groups. It is ironic that these people are the first to suffer from the severe economic restrictions imposed by the IMF and thus becoming poorer and poorer. We hope that children will not be driven to starvation in order to pay the debts of the developing countries.

Besides, this critical economic crisis is one of the factors which create the actual tension in the region where there is a popular feeling among the people of the region that the wealth of the oil-rich Arab World benefits only a minority, while famine is a daily event in some other Arab countries.

Insurance of primary health care and education

Basic health services of good standards should be available for all children under five years. Increasing efforts are needed to reduce the infant mortality in the region which is mainly due to preventable causes. A reconsideration of health budget needs should be undertaken. Preventive health should be given priority. Statistics show that in the Arab World approximately one million children under the age of five die each year with 90 per cent of these deaths due to preventable medical causes.

Primary education for both sexes is essential. Good educational standards play a role in improving children's health. It is estimated that there are approximately nine million illiterate children, the majority of whom are girls.

Adults have not been successful in creating societies with equal and adequate opportunities for all. Let us hope that the children of today can live in a better world, if we provide them with our best and sincere efforts.

The last decade of the 20th century, must accelerate all efforts for the well-being of children all over the world, so that the generation which is moving into the 21st century could be proud of the new century.

The writer is a paediatrician based in Amman and the author of several books on issues pertaining to children. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Chinese medal sweep brought to a brief halt by Koreans

PEKING (R) — Koreans from North and the South stole the limelight from China's all-conquering athletes at the Asian Games Sunday, winning several events including the men's marathon.

These temporary setbacks did not prevent China from adding eight more gold medals to its overnight haul of 111, including the women's badminton team event.

But the Chinese triumphs have been tarnished by their failure to win the men's glamour events in athletics, including the 100 metres Friday, the 1,500 metres Saturday and now the marathon. China so far has looked relatively weak in track and field, the traditional centerpiece of the games.

The marathon was won by South Korea's Kim Won-Tak, who had to overcome cramps and a bitterly cold wind to finish at the head of a field weakened by the absence of Japan's top runners.

Kim won easily in two hours 12 minutes 56 seconds. Japan's Satoru Shimizu took the silver medal with a time of 2:14:46 and Choi Chol-Ho came third in 2:18:18.

But it was Shimizu who set the pace until the 25 kilometre when Kim drew level and, after fighting out a tactical battle over the next 10 kilometres, finally took the lead at the 36 kilometre mark.

Kim, a 26-year-old employee of a Seoul cloth manufacturing company who rates travelling as a favourite pastime, said afterwards that he was confident of victory.

"I had my doubts at the 32 kilometre mark because of pain in my stomach. But it lasted only for one kilometre and then I was all right," Kim said the cold wind blowing throughout the 42.195 kilometre race was an added irritant.

Shimizu paid tribute to two

Japanese runners, Tomoyuko Taniguchi and Yutaka Kanai, who died last month in a road accident.

"It was for their sake I ran today... so I am not disappointed by the result," said Shimizu.

Shimizu said he started preparing for the event only after the death of Taniguchi, who was to have taken part.

Zhao Youteng salvaged some honour for China by winning the women's marathon, in two hours 35 minutes 19 seconds, but this failed to dispel the gloom mood the men's result had spread through the holiday crowd in the athletics stadium.

Zhao took a firm grip on the women's race after 20 kilometres and easily fended off a late challenge from Japan's Kumi Araki to win gold in a games record time of two hours, 35 minutes and 19 seconds.

ASIAN GAMES

Kumi, who burst into the stadium just 20 metres behind Zhao could not keep up the pace round the obligatory two final laps of the track and faded about 400 metres from the finish to cross the line 15 seconds behind. North Korea's Lee Mi-Ok took the bronze in 2:36:31.

The Chinese athlete said afterwards she would have preferred to run behind someone else to keep the cold wind off her face. "But no one wanted to take the lead," she complained good humouredly.

China's women also took gold in the badminton team event, beating Indonesia 4-1 after surviving a scare when the Indonesians clawed back to win the first doubles and went to three close sets in the second.

The Chinese rallied to win the rubber, Nong Qunhua smashing

home the final point before collapsing with leg cramps. "If the game had gone on one or two minutes longer, we would have had problems," the Chinese coach said.

China also gained consolation in less popular sports, with Wang Hui shooting his way to gold with a new games record of 575 points in the individual standard pistol 60 shots.

Wang also helped China win the team gold in the event, pushing South Korea into second place and Thailand third.

But even in this discipline, China's sweep was spoiled by the Koreans — this time from the North.

A North Korean soldier, Ro Choi Sik, captured the 10 metre running target individual event and compatriot Pak Jong-Ran took the skeet 200 targets individual event for women.

Another consolation for China was in cycling, with Lu Suyan winning the gold medal in the 60-80 kilometre individual road race and Zhang Shuzhen the silver.

North Koreans apologise

North Korean officials have reversed themselves and apologised for an ugly attack on a referee by two of their coaches after an Asian Games bout, a senior boxing official said Sunday.

The entire North Korean team was booted out of the boxing competition after their coaches knelt a Pakistani referee in the groin when their man lost the bout, starting a melee that required security men to wade in to stop it.

"(The North Koreans) have apologised unconditionally. They have no hard feelings. They are fully satisfied and convinced that the action that was taken was the minimum that could have been

taken," President of the Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) Anwar Chowdhury told reporters.

North Korean officials had earlier said the banning was unjust and alleged there had been bribery in the match between Iranian Iraj Kiarostami and their fighter Ton Su-Young in a super-heavyweight first round bout Thursday night.

"Bribery involved from Iran? My God," Chowdhury said. "You can't expect it in your lifetime."

AIBA, the world governing body for amateur boxing, will be meeting in November in Sydney to discuss further action against the North Korean boxing team, Chowdhury said. He declined to say whether the apology would help ease the punishment.

"AIBA will take all factors into consideration when they make the final decision," he said.

Chowdhury said the security at the boxing venue, Peking's Institute of Physical Education, could have been improved, but he put it down to shortsightedness of the host nation's inexperience at holding major sporting events.

"The security could have been better. The ringside seats are too close and the crowd is not kept apart from the ring," he said. "It's the way the stadium is constructed."

3 countries split judo titles

World Champion Kim Byung-Joo gave South Korea its first judo gold medal Saturday when he beat his Chinese opponent with a full point in the men's half-middleweight division at the Asian Games.

China swept two more women's titles Saturday, increasing its gold winnings to four in two days of judo competition. Japan picked up its third men's gold medal.

Boxing entries to 1992 Olympics to be slashed

BEIJING (R) — The Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) will slash by almost half the number of boxers allowed to take part in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, the organisation's head said Sunday.

Only 364 boxers will be allowed to fight at the games because there are limited facilities in Barcelona, and to protect boxers from excessive fighting during the games, AIBA President Anwar Chowdhury told reporters.

"In a contact sport you cannot allow an unlimited number of entries," he said. "If such a step was not taken, we were expecting more than 650 entries at Barcelona."

He said more than 600 boxers signed up for the 1988 Seoul games, although only about 490 actually stepped into the ring.

The 364 spaces — 32 in each weight category, except for the heavyweight and super-heavyweight divisions — would be allocated to Continental Olympic Organisations for them to fill as they saw fit.

Asia will receive six spots, Europe nine, Africa seven, North America six, Oceania two and South America two. He said

the places had been allocated based on previous participation at the games.

Twenty-four fighters will be allowed in the heavyweight category and 20 in the super-heavyweight.

"National Olympic committees are taking a view that the Olympics is a sports festival and that every individual has the right to participate," Chowdhury said.

"They forget that... the Olympic committees must send athletes only of Olympic calibre," he said, adding that the restriction on entries will raise the standard of boxing at the games.

He said AIBA was also trying to cut down on boxing injuries by using better equipment which reduces the impact of blows by 75 per cent.

"There are hardly any knock outs or knock downs or eye injuries in these fights," Chowdhury said. "The style of boxing has changed considerably. There is no room for killing blows now."

AIBA has commissioned a million-dollar medical study from an American university on the medical effects of amateur boxing, in order to deflect criticism that the sport was too brutal.

Liverpool stays at top

LONDON (AP) — Ray Houghton scored just before halftime as Liverpool defeated host Sunderland 1-0 Saturday, giving the defending champion Reds victories in all seven of their English Soccer League matches this season.

The triumph left Liverpool with a six-point lead over Arsenal, Tottenham and Crystal Palace in the first division.

Arsenal needed a pair of Anders Limpar goals to tie host Leeds 2-2 and retain second place with a better goal differential than Tottenham or Palace.

Tottenham rallied from a 1-0 deficit on goals by Gary Lineker and Paul Allen to defeat Aston Villa 2-1 at White Hart Lane and claim third place, while Palace won 2-0 at last-place Derby on goals by Ian Wright and Mark Bright.

In other division one games, Steve Livingstone's two goals led Coventry to a 3-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers and Tony Cottee had a pair of goals as Everton defeated Southampton 3-0.

Manchester United lost at

home for the first time this season, falling 1-0 to Nottingham Forest on Stuart Pearce's goal and Luton won 3-1 at Norwich on a trio of second-half goals by Lars Elstrup.

A late goal lifted host Wimbledon to a 1-1 tie against Manchester City and Chelsea played to a 2-2 tie against visiting Sheffield United.

In the second division, Oldham played to a scoreless tie at West Bromwich to maintain its lead with 20 points from eight games. Sheffield Wednesday is second with 17 points from seven games after tying visiting West Ham 1-1.

At Sunderland, Liverpool had too much skill for a team that was promoted from the second division at the end of last season. The Reds dominated play and had many more scoring opportunities, including chances that Ian Rush and John Barnes did not take full advantage of in the first half.

But a minute before halftime, Peter Beardsley led the ball to Houghton, who sidestepped Tony Norman and slipped the ball into an empty net.

Australian wins Berlin Marathon in best time

WEST BERLIN (R) — Australian Steve Moneghetti clocked the year's best marathon time in Berlin Sunday, leading home a 25,000-strong field in the first race straddling both halves of the long-divided city.

With conditions near perfect, Moneghetti won in two hours, eight minutes 16 seconds. Gide-

mas Shahanga of Tanzania was second in 2:08:32 and East German Joerg Peter third.

Moneghetti, strongly fancied after running an impressive half marathon two weeks ago in Newcastle, England, shaved three seconds off the previous best time this year run by Italian Olympic champion Gelindo Bordin.

Gilbert beats Krickstein in Queensland Open final

BRISBANE, Australia (R) — Top seed Brad Gilbert dropped the first two games in the Queensland Open tennis final but then lost just two more on the way to a crushing 6-3, 6-1 defeat of fellow American Aaron Krickstein Sunday.

In a disappointing baseline battle, Gilbert was too consistent and fleet of foot for the second seeded Krickstein whose easy passage to the final seemed to leave him under-prepared for the rain-interrupted match.

Krickstein was probably favourite going into the final, having spent just 193 minutes on court in the tournament and dropping only 11 games.

He thrashed Australian John Fitzgerald in the semifinal while Gilbert was forced to fight hard and long to beat fourth seed Carl Uwe Steeb of West Germany in a three-set semifinal which finished late Saturday night.

Krickstein broke Gilbert in the

opening game and after a two-hour break for rain, held his own serve for a 2-0 lead. But Gilbert, ranked nine in the world, quickly found his range and wore Krickstein down with precision shots from the back of the court.

Gilbert won the first set with an ace and the second set quickly became a procession of errors from the right-handed Krickstein. Gilbert said the rain helped him win his 20th title.

"I really lifted my game after the rain delay," he said after the 70-minute match. "I started to attack him and serve better. This is probably my best week of tennis this year."

Krickstein was despondent about his form and the weather. "I had some chances in the first set and then it slipped away," he said. "Obviously the way it turned out the rain delay didn't help me. But after the first set it was like a domino effect."

Dinamo Zagreb coach quits

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Dinamo Zagreb soccer coach Josip Kuzic resigned Sunday after a run of bad results.

"I am sick and tired of trying in vain to make players do what they are supposed to do, to play," he said following Saturday's

Yugoslav first division defeat by Osijek.

Dinamo meet Italy's Atalanta in the home leg of their UEFA Cup first round Wednesday. The first leg ended in a goalless draw.

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FORGET THOSE AXIOMS

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 10 3
♥ J 4
♦ K 10 5
♣ 8 6 4 2

WEST
♠ Q 8 7 2
♥ 10 7 6
♦ J 9 8 7
♣ A J

EAST
♠ 9 5 4
♥ A 8 3 2
♦ Q 6 4
♣ Q 9

SOUTH
♠ J 6
♥ K Q 9
♦ A 3 2
♣ K 10 7 5 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠. There are many truths in those bridge rubrics, most of them handed down to us from the days of whist. But they are designed for generalities, not specific situations. There are times when they should be observed more in the breach.

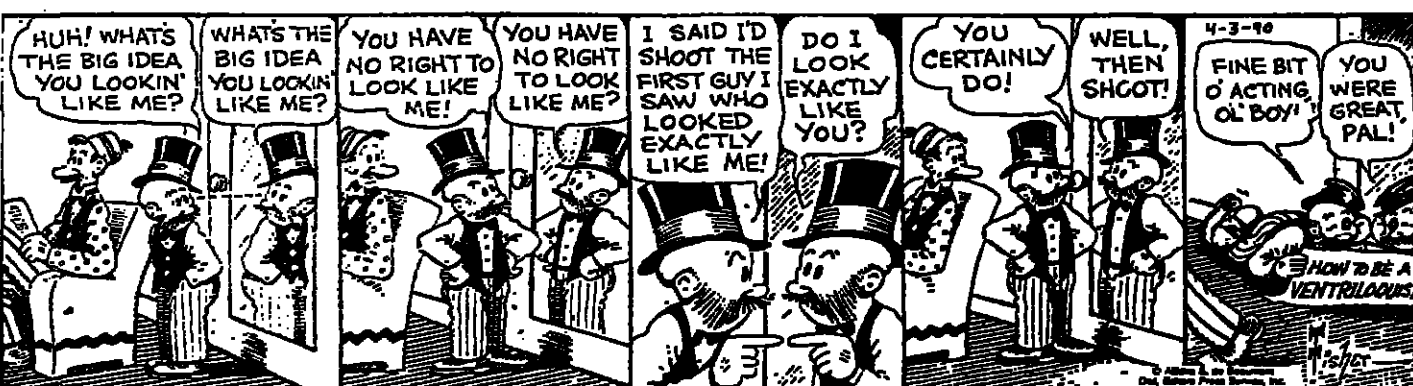
North's opening bid was a trifle light, but the hand did contain 2 1/2 defensive tricks and the master suit. Although the opening bid was doubtful, North correctly refused to pass his partner's forcing response

and the final contract was reasonable. Declarer won the opening lead in dummy with the king and led a club. Had East blindly followed the old adage of "second hand low," declarer would have sneaked home by going in with the king. Although that would have lost to the ace, a simple hold-up of the ace of diamonds for one round would have allowed declarer to keep West off lead while setting up the clubs, limiting the defenders to two clubs, one heart and one diamond.

However, East found a stunning defense by shooting up with the queen of clubs! Declarer had no counter. If South played low, East would simply revert to the queen of diamonds and continue the suit to force out declarer's last stopper while West still had the ace of clubs as an entry.

At the table, declarer covered the queen of clubs with the king, losing to West's ace. That defender continued diamonds to force out the ace and all would have been well had East held the jack of clubs to go with the queen. But the knave turned out to be West's entry to the good diamond and the defenders reeled in five tricks—two in each minor and the ace of hearts.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 1, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Good day for going directly to the most important male who understands the most modern way of doing things so that you can get his backing and support for your ingenious plan.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to consider your ambitions of a material nature and especially where money and property are concerned and to make notations for future reference.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a most important day for you to be highly personal in deciding your objectives and goals for the future and how to obtain them easily.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Behind the scenes studies and huddles with experts who can be helpful to you to clarify your deep seated private goals.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider those companions you have long known and can rely upon and let them know of your secret longings, how they suggest you get them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use your head now to consider what new avenues of expression can bring you additional worldly success and let friends know where they can aid you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a definite longing to make some drastic changes but you need to be more logical in deciding when and to go after them, so study this now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get into the schools of

thought that appeal to you today and come up with those you wish most to live under during the coming year.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to consider your ambitions of a material nature and especially where money and property are concerned and to make notations for future reference.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a most important day for you to be highly personal in deciding your objectives and goals for the future and how to obtain them easily.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Behind the scenes studies and huddles with experts who can be helpful to you to clarify your deep seated private goals.

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VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get into the schools of

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"You've got too many neuroses! Some of us are going to look for a place that's less crowded!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BICUT
KICHT
GOSPEN
FREIHE

Look, sir—they're goofing off out there!

Always playing to the boss, as if it's going to do him any good!

HE STOOPS LOW BECAUSE HE'S SO ANXIOUS---

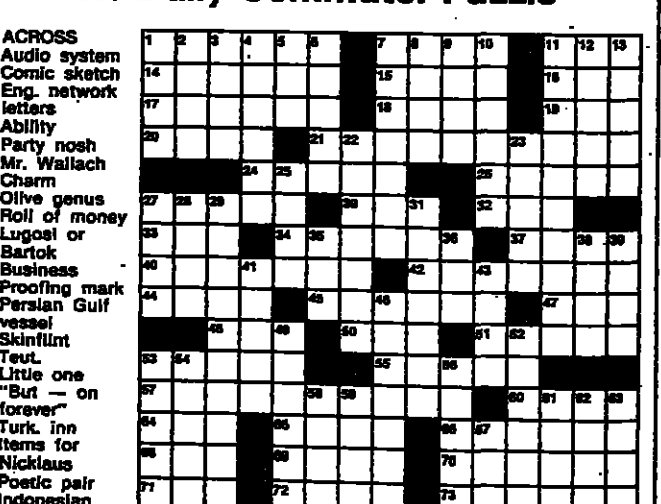
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: AHEAD TARDY SNITCH HERSEY
Answer: What a garage sale sometimes converts—TRASH INTO CASH

(Answers tomorrow)

The Daily Commuter Puzzle



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SASH CARIT CAP
PLIE ALICE BOLE
ASTROPHIC ABO
ROE LAKE BLAYED
RIPSE RESE
ALVOIE MAZE OTO
SLOPE GAVES THE
SABE CATER VUE
AND QOTER MOOTE
YOU QOTER RETIED
ATTACH PING OPT
QOZO CHANGEOVER
QOZE TINGE RARE
GAS PIERCE BLUE

43 Tie feature
46 Safari
49 members
52 Anesthetics
53 Westminster—
54 Cruel one
56 Lead
58 Chimney part
59 "— a song go
out—
61 Gainer e.g.
62 Indians
63 Crooked
67 in the
manner of

Global merger activity drops by 42 per cent

NEW YORK (R) — The value of merger and acquisition activity fell 42 per cent to \$316.6 billion worldwide in the first nine months of 1990 from \$549.8 billion in the comparable period of last year, a research company has said.

The figures reflect a weakening economy and tighter credit, say investment bankers, who are quick to add that the takeover era is far from over.

The deals are smaller, prices aren't as high, but there's still an immense body of transactions around," said one investment banker.

Preliminary figures compiled by Securities Data Co. in Newark, New Jersey, show there have been 5,908 deals announced this year worldwide, compared with 6,677 in the 1989 period.

The dropoff in activity was most pronounced in the United States, where 3,306 deals worth \$151.2 billion have been announced, compared with 3,734 transactions worth \$333 billion in last year's period.

By contrast, the value of cross-border deals involving European companies more than doubled, rising 111 per cent to \$36.7 billion from \$17.5 billion a year earlier.

The report also noted a strong upturn in deals involving British targets in the most recent quarter, with the value up 75 per cent to \$24.1 billion, compared with \$13.7 billion in the prior quarter.

Iraq, U.S. see eye to eye on price of oil

BAGHDAD (R) — As Iraq and the United States teeter on the brink of war, their governments see eye to eye on the price of oil.

They agree that it has been driven up by speculators, not shortages.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2 the price of oil on world markets has almost doubled and now stands at just under \$40 a barrel.

At the petrol pump in the United States, prices rose overnight by \$0.15 a gallon and now average more than 20 per cent above the pre-invasion level.

"There is no reason for this. World stocks are high," Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said in a recent interview. "That goes for crude as well as gasoline."

Last week U.S. President George Bush echoed such views. "There is no justification for the intensive and unwarranted speculation in oil futures," he said. "While the oil market is very tight... there is sufficient oil to meet current needs."

To calm the oil market, whose sharp rise has in turn driven down world stock prices, the U.S. government announced it would sell five million barrels from its strategic petroleum reserves — underground reservoirs established in 1975.

More than four million barrels a day have been taken off the world oil market by global trade sanctions imposed on Aug. 6 which ended exports of oil from Iraq and Kuwait.

Much but not all of the shortfall had been covered by increased output from other producers.

As seen from both Baghdad and Washington, the steep increase of prices at the petrol pump is even less justified than sharp rises on the crude oil market.

"Look at a big company," said one senior oil official. "Let's say they have 100 million barrels of stocks. They bought it at an average of \$15 a barrel and now it is valued at \$39. It is a huge profit. So where is the reason for increases? Why burden the consumer?"

Some of the fluctuations on world oil markets have been caused by Iraqi statements that Baghdad would retaliate against an attack by U.S.-led multinational forces by setting ablaze the world's biggest oil field and destroying production facilities in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf.

The United States and allied forces now have in place more than 700 aircraft and an array of high technology air defence systems which would make it difficult for Iraqi bombers to hit oil wells or Saudi export terminals at Ras Tanura and Yanbu.

"Markets the world over are not necessarily driven by logic and cool analysis," one senior diplomat said. "There are many other factors, last but not least psychological ones."

These include the fact that Iraq took over Kuwait after a dispute over oil prices and production levels. Baghdad says Kuwait deprived it of billions of dollars in oil income by cheating on OPEC production quota and keeping prices down.

Iraq also accused the Kuwaitis of syphoning off vast quantities of oil from the disputed Rumailah oilfield, one of the biggest oil reservoirs in the world.

Gulf crisis may force India to go to IMF for a big loan

NEW DELHI (R) — The Gulf crisis will cost India's economy about \$2.3 billion and New Delhi may have to swallow its pride and borrow from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), officials and economists say.

Finance Minister Madhu Danavate, in Washington for the annual World Bank / IMF meeting, said India had not yet asked the fund for a loan, but in such a big crisis, no options are ruled out," Indian news agencies quoted him as saying.

"The finance minister has finally decided to take the plunge and tap IMF assistance," the Times of India said Saturday.

In an address to the meeting last week, Danavate urged the IMF to set up a special fund to help developing countries pay for the doubling of oil prices since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Danavate said a rise in global interest rates, rocketing oil prices and loss of worker's remittances and exports to the Middle East have badly hit the balance of payments position of developing countries, particularly in south Asia.

But the meeting ended with no agreement on a special fund.

Danavate, responding to questions from Indian reporters, said India need not fear any conditions attached to a loan because Delhi has already anticipated IMF prescriptions.

Indian economists have urged the government to ignore the political fallout and ask the fund for money now to rescue the country's deteriorating balance of payments position.

"We've gotten ourselves into quite a jam. Any delay will cause our whole policy structure towards more liberalisation and increased competitiveness to change," said S.L. Rao, director of the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

A recent finance ministry study said if oil prices average \$25 a barrel over the next year from October it will add \$2.5 billion to India's import bill.

India also could lose \$300 million in lost trade and remittances from workers in Iraq and Kuwait, the study said.

India's current account deficit could balloon to more than \$9 billion at the end of 1990/91 from \$6.8 billion last year, one Western diplomat said.

Foreign exchange reserves, meanwhile, have dwindled to around \$2.9 billion from \$3.2 billion last December and \$4.3 billion at the end of 1988.

India, a member of the IMF executive board, worries that the fund would embarrass the country with conditions for putting its economic house in order.

"They prescribe so many remedies that touch on political questions it makes it difficult to approach them," said one finance ministry official who did not want to be named.

"Taking an IMF loan is a sign of weakness," said economist Raja Chelliah writing in the Economic Times newspaper.

"If India goes to the IMF, it would publicly admit its balance of payments is in trouble and cannot be resolved without getting IMF support," he noted.

The economists say India is worried the IMF will demand it take drastic steps to slash a widening budget deficit, particularly expensive subsidies to farmers, and privatise sick state-owned companies that have dripped red ink for years.

Chelliah said India should go to the IMF with its own plan for fiscal reform to avoid any embarrassment over conditionality.

"There is yet another alternative: Impose import controls and go back on liberalisation. I am for this alternative because we have tried the other for the last 30 years and have not succeeded," he added.

Rao said India's internal debt — the amount it owes state banks to finance its arrears — has crossed 2,000 billion rupees (\$114 billion), or nearly double its external debt of \$63 billion.

India is paying off the last instalments of a \$5 billion 10-year loan from the IMF in 1981, the largest ever by the fund, and may wait until it is repaid next year before going to the fund again, economists say.

Economic situation dramatic, action needed — Ryzhkov

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said Saturday the Soviet Union's economic plight had reached dramatic proportions and strict observance of law and work discipline was needed to prevent further collapse.

Ryzhkov, in his weekly television address, backed President Mikhail Gorbachev's directives this week ordering ministries to make up for lost production and punish enterprises failing to supply important goods.

"The situation is such in the country now that we must stop the decline. I do not want to dramatise or frighten anyone and I have no right to do so. But we simply cannot leave matters as they are," he said.

"Laws, decrees, resolutions are not being implemented. We have not had this situation in the country for a long time and if we do not stop this we could worsen the situation," Ryzhkov said.

Radicals have demanded Ryzhkov's resignation because of his opposition to their proposal to introduce a market-based economy within 500 days.

Parliament has so far failed to find a compromise between the radical plan and Ryzhkov's cautious alternative, but it has granted sweeping new powers to Gorbachev which virtually turn the running of the economy over to him.

Ryzhkov described Gorbachev's directive as "timely" and repeated his claim that until market mechanisms were put properly into place it was vital to maintain existing links between enterprises and government ministries.

"If we do not do so through some unwillingness (to act), we could find the unity of the economy ruined pending the establishment of market relations," he said.

"Today many of our troubles are rooted in the fact that the unity of our economy, which was earlier based on stern directives, is not working now that we have developed more democratic means."

He said authorities were working out a system of financial penalties for firms or authorities failing to carry out production requirements.

Ryzhkov decried worsening food shortages in industrial areas. The prime minister said he understood the reasoning of regions refusing to provide raw materials to neighbouring areas but denounced such actions as "bad for us all."

At least two regions have threatened to withhold supplies of timber and coal unless they receive reliable food deliveries.

Ryzhkov also said that if the country observed the required discipline, problems associated with bringing in the current harvest could be overcome.

"I believe that in the next three weeks, maximum, we work as we should we have the basis to provide for ourselves in potatoes, vegetables, fruit," he said.

"This week, factory workers, soldiers and city dwellers swarmed into the countryside to help farmers pull potatoes from rain-soaked fields in an effort to fend off hunger this winter."

"In some industrial regions, people are going to the fields despite the difficult weather conditions, and the army helps," Ryzhkov said.

He dismissed as "immoral" suggestions that discontent within the army could lead to a military coup.

"We ought to be expressing our thanks to the army for saving the harvest," he said.

Television news showed pictures of Moscow food shops with virtually empty shelves. It also interviewed officials and truck drivers who dismissed rumours that there was a conspiracy to keep food deliveries away from the capital to discredit radical city leaders.

He mostly blamed the weather, which has been cold and rainy in central Russia since mid-August, for the poor harvest.

But he also laid the onus on the collapse of the system of economic planning, in which the central government orders factories and farms what goods to deliver, when and where.

As the country prepares to shift to a market economy, and producers cast about for higher profits, those centrally planned deliveries are not being made.

"What causes great concern, and even indignation, is the discipline of deliveries. Take meat, for example. The meat situation has sharply worsened," said Ryzhkov.

He cited the failure of collective farms to deliver meat to Sverdlovsk, a key industrial city in the Ural mountains east of Moscow, and a decision by authorities in Karelia near Finland to make scheduled timber deliveries outside that region because Karelians were not receiving food from elsewhere.

"We cannot allow ourselves into a situation where regions wage economic war against each other," he said.

Gorbachev's directive this week, stressing that supplies had to be guaranteed within existing structures, appeared to support Ryzhkov amid the clamour for his resignation.

But his virtual takeover of economic policy faces stiff resistance from the increasingly assertive republics, particularly the Russian Federation under President Boris Yeltsin, which has demanded implementation of the radical economic plan.

Soviet overdue debt being repaid

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is repaying overdue debt to foreign firms, but not as fast as it would like, one of the country's top bankers said in an interview published Saturday.

Yuri Moskovsky, head of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (Vneshekonombank), told the Communist Party daily Pravda more than a billion rubles (\$1.75 billion) had been repaid over the past two months.

"We are not reducing the debt as quickly as we would like. Some organisations are continuing to sign contracts without worrying about sources of payment," he said.

Late payments by Soviet foreign trade organisations, until recently reliable and prompt payers, have worried Western creditors this year.

But bankers say matters improved after Moscow borrowed five billion marks (\$3.2 billion) from West Germany in June.

Much of the loan was used to pay import bills from West German companies. "We are making efforts to pay firms from other countries," Moskovsky said, without specifying how much debt remained.

Unprecedented arrears built up after a drop in Soviet oil export earnings, and economic reforms allowing companies to conduct foreign trade on their own for the first time.

Moskovsky said the debt would eventually be repaid. He also suggested there should be a more realistic ruble exchange rate.

"It is no secret that because of its irregular level Soviet enterprises frequently find it easier to buy goods abroad than to produce them in this country," he said.

Various proposals to cut the ruble's value this year or next, and thus reduce the temptation to exchange rubles for hard currency, have so far failed to win acceptance.

Oman to raise oil output by 6%

MUSCAT (AP) — After restricting its oil output for months to help OPEC stabilise prices, Oman has decided to raise it to 700,000 barrels a day, a petroleum and minerals ministry spokesman said Sunday.

Oman's current output is 660,000 barrels a day. The six per cent increase will be implemented gradually over the next three months, said state petroleum marketing director Rashid Barwani.

"Plans to raise production to 700,000 barrels per day were considered several months ago and it is now our intention to go ahead with these by the end of this year," he said.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had been trying to restrict the production of its 13 member states and soliciting the help of non-OPEC producers, such as Oman, to defend an oil price of \$21 a barrel.

Since the Gulf crisis erupted with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, prices have spiralled and are now in the range of \$40 a barrel for some grades of crude oil.

The takeover also eliminated from the market four million barrels a day that used to be produced by Iraq and Kuwait.

Barwani said state oil officials would like to see prices stabilise at a level equitable to both producers and consumers. He said the grade of oil that Oman produces fetched \$31-\$32 a barrel in September.

The price we're getting now is high, and naturally there is a short-term gain," said Barwani.

"We don't expect it to stay high, however, and in the long term it's not in our interest for it to do so."

He expressed a preference for a price level of around \$25 a barrel — which was also favoured by Iraq and Iran before a July OPEC meeting, although they later approved the \$21 mark.

In the Omani official's view, the present situation merely encouraged buyers to conserve, and to seek other energy sources such as nuclear power.

"As a result, demand drops, supply rises and there's no real stability in the market," Barwani said.

Japan is Oman's biggest customer and buys an average 48 per cent of the sultanate's output. Korea is its second largest consumer, purchasing about 25 per cent.

A major input will be made by the \$500 million development of state-owned Petroleum Development Oman's northern Lekhwar oil field.

The field's present output of 24,000 barrels a day will be raised to 100,000 barrels a day by 1994, making it one of the country's top six producers.

Lekhwar will also produce four million cubic metres of gas daily. Some will be used in the field to lift oil and the bulk will be fed into the state gas system to power light industry.

Oman, the third largest country on the Arabian Peninsula, is a modest oil producer by Gulf standards. But its petroleum-dependent economy relies almost totally on oil revenue.

Zambia raises petrol prices by 70 per cent

LUSAKA (R) — Zambia raised petrol prices by 70 per cent Sunday, citing increases in the cost of crude oil on world markets due to the Gulf crisis.

"The price increase has been necessitated by the spiralling crude oil cost caused by the continuing Gulf crisis," the country's oil importer, Zambia Industrial and Mining Company (ZIMCO) said in a statement.

The new rise comes only a month after Zambia raised its petrol price by 50 per cent because of procurement financing difficulties following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Zambia had imported crude oil from Kuwait at very concessional prices before the takeover but had to find other supplies, including processed oil from South Africa.

Iran said in August it would supply Zambia with 70,000 tonnes of crude oil but it is not clear whether it has arrived.

The first petrol price increase forced prices of other goods and services to rise, sparking fears of industrial unrest as workers began to demand higher wages.

Belgrade plans to save firms hit by Gulf crisis

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government plans to save from bankruptcy firms that have lost business with Iraq due to the Gulf crisis, Tanjug news agency has said.

It quoted Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Mitrovic as telling parliament that the government wanted to stop bankruptcy procedures against such companies and had proposed talks with banks on suspending the firms' financial obligations.

Parliament called on the government to take action as soon as possible to protect firms owed money by Iraq.

Iraq's outstanding debts to Yugoslavia total \$900 million and Yugoslavia will lose \$1.3 billion this year by taking part in the blockade of Iraq, Mitrovic said.

He said breaching contracts in the Gulf would eventually cost Yugoslavia \$3.3 billion.

Iraq has Yugoslavia's biggest trade volume last year of about \$700 million. Yugoslavia faces a shortfall of 4.35 million tonnes of crude oil this year if it does not receive scheduled deliveries from Iraq.

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Pound Sterling	1230.4	1237.8	
Deutsche mark	418.8	421.3	
Swiss franc	505.8	508.8	
French franc	125.1	125.9	
Japanese yen (for 100)	473.5	476.3	
Dutch guilder	371.5	373.7	
Swedish crown	113.8	114.5	
Italian lira (for 100)	56.0	56.3	
Belgian franc (for 10)	203.4	204.6	

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4 whites killed and burned in South African black township

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The mutilated and burned bodies of four white South Africans were found in a black township Sunday, police said.

They were the first whites reported killed in a black township since a wave of violence which has killed almost 800 people in two months.

The three men and a woman had been hacked and beaten and set on fire after having petrol poured over them, a spokesman said.

The reasons for the killings were not known.

The Johannesburg Radio Station 702 said the three apparently had visited a Shebeen drinking house in the Orange Free State township of Khatloane, about 200 kilometres south of Johannesburg, Saturday night.

"All the bodies were badly mutilated with numerous knife and stab wounds," it said.

The radio said three bodies were lying next to a burned-out car registered in the Orange Free State gold mining town of Welkom, which has become synonymous with pro-apartheid white supremacy since President F.W. de Klerk launched his reform programme aimed at granting blacks political rights.

One man had apparently tried to escape and his body lay 50 metres away.

All other known victims of South Africa's bloody township wars have been blacks as factional fighting raged between followers of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and loyalists of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The ANC and many township residents say mysterious whites have been taking part in attacks on township residents. They suspect right-wing elements opposed to the government's plan to end 300 years of white supremacy, making any white in a township the object of suspicion and some hostility.

A black man and three black youths were "necklaced" with burning petrol-filled tyres in front of their homes in separate incidents early Saturday in the township of Sebokeng near Johannesburg — scene of some of the worst fighting of recent weeks.

The victims, aged 16, 18 and 19, were dragged into a street in front of their parents' homes by a mob of youths who repeatedly

stabbed them before burning them.

The townships around Johannesburg have been generally quiet for two weeks since the white government sent in heavily armed troops and police under "operation iron fist" to separate warring factions and impose a night-time curfew.

The ANC, the main anti-apartheid organisation, accuses the government of trying to crush its support in the townships. It says white rightists in the security forces are fomenting trouble.

The government says the fighting amounts to a power struggle between the ANC and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha, the two most powerful black political organisations, for dominance in negotiations leading to black rule.

Unity still an elusive dream in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's 100 million people celebrate 30 years of independence Monday, but a popular media slogan "unity in diversity" has proved an elusive dream for the West African nation.

Military President Ibrahim Babangida is optimistic that he can bring about unity and a stable democracy after decades of political upheaval.

Created by a colonial decision in 1914 and made independent from British rule on Oct. 1, 1960, the oil-producing country is divided by religion and tribe, culture and political tradition, and at least 300 languages.

That diversity led to the first of many military takeovers in 1966, caused a traumatic civil war in 1967-70, and "bedevils the nation's existence as a united entity," said state television in an anniversary review.

The latest coup attempt last April, an abortive but bloody rebellion by junior officers, emphasised that old tensions persist between the predominantly Muslim north and the largely Christian south.

But Babangida believes he can end a tragic cycle of coups, conflict and corruption in sub-Saharan Africa's richest and most populous nation, ruled by soldiers for two-thirds of its history.

"I have a very strong belief that we will be the last (military regime)," he said in an interview with the London-based West Africa Magazine, a transcript of which was made available to Reuters.

The general, who seized power in August 1983, plans to hand power to elected civilians in 1992 under the country's third experiment in democracy, which he says must produce a stable climate for economic recovery.

The fortnightly Financial Post, calling Nigeria "a toddler at 30," said the nation's oil wealth had been squandered to fund imports and prestige projects at the expense of agriculture and rural development.

The legacy of the past three decades was foreign dependence, with the trappings of Western-style modernity alongside dire poverty and a collapsing infrastructure.

Babangida, who put in place an International Monetary Fund-backed economic adjustment programme in 1986, said his policies would attract foreign investors. "What needs to be done is this guarantee of stability," he said.

He was encouraged by the behaviour of politicians in the right-wing National Republican Convention (NRC) and the leftist Social Democratic Party (SDP) — both created by him to take part in the planned return to democracy.

The parties, registered this month to contest local government elections on Dec. 8, chose their national leaders at government-managed congresses in July.

Sacked deputy premier quits Indian parliament

NEW DELHI (R) — Former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal resigned from parliament Sunday and dissident ruling party members demanded Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Singh also step down, Indian news agencies said.

Lal, sacked by Singh in July, arrived late for a crucial meeting of ruling party parliamentarians and told reporters he had just submitted his resignation letter to Singh.

Lal did not immediately explain why he was quitting.

Twenty-one members of parliament from Singh's Janata Dal Party have called for his resignation, accusing him of dragging the country to the brink of civil war over plans to give low-caste Hindus more jobs in the central government.

Singh survived a leadership challenge Sunday when his parliamentary party gave him a vote of confidence and backed the job plan.

After a six-hour debate he won a confidence resolution that also reaffirmed his policy of reserving government jobs for low-caste Hindus, which has triggered riots and protest suicides across northern India.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said another 17 Janata Dal parliamentarians were also expected to sign the memorandum which charges Singh's 10-month-old government with "all-round failure."

It accused him of bringing the country to the "brink of a caste war" because of his decision to reserve up to half of all central government jobs for people on the bottom rungs of the Hindu social ladder.

More than 60 people have died in demonstrations against the plan across northern India in the past seven weeks. At least 15 were students who committed suicide to try to force Singh to withdraw it.

The dramatic developments occurred ahead of Monday's special session of parliament. Political analysts said opposition parties may try to capitalise on the fissures within Singh's party by moving a vote of no confidence.

While upper-caste students set themselves ablaze in India over Singh's plan to reserve government jobs, low-caste Hindus who would benefit are seething with anger.

Oppressed for centuries under the rigid Hindu social hierarchy and poorly educated, the low castes see Singh's job quota plan as a much-needed way to climb the social ladder.

Polish Senate to endorse law outlawing abortion

WARSAW (AP) — Ignoring angry protests outside the building, the Senate approved legislation that would outlaw abortion in Poland for the first time since 1956 and order jail terms for doctors performing abortions.

The bill, originally proposed in spring by a group of 37 senators, must still be passed by the Sejm, or lower chamber of parliament, and signed by the president to become law.

The Senate approved the bill 50-17 with 5 abstentions. It allows abortion to be performed only when a woman's life is in danger or when pregnancy is a result of a crime.

Before endorsing the bill's final draft, the Senate overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to punish women who have abortions with

against him. Singh's National Front Coalition commands less than 150 seats in the 545-member parliament and relies on support from two groups that detest each other — the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party and Communists.

Lal, a burly 76-year-old peasant leader, is one of the founders of the Janata Dal Party and one of the few in parliament with a mass political base.

In his strongly-worded resignation letter, he said: "I cannot support the government which is so insensitive to the cries of dying children and is leading the country to Balkanisation and society to fragmentation." PTI said.

As soon as Singh concluded his opening remarks to the parliamentary party meeting, Lal went up to the podium and handed the letter to Singh, before walking out of the meeting.

Singh fired his deputy in July for making unsubstantiated corruption allegations against cabinet ministers considered close to the prime minister.

A spokesman for the dissident parliamentarians said late Saturday the group was unhappy about how the government was handling worsening insurgencies in northern states, rising prices and communal tensions.

Nearly 4,000 people have been killed so far this year in a Sikh campaign for a separate homeland in Punjab, a Muslim revolt in Kashmir and a leftist insurgency in Assam.

But these revolts have aroused nothing like the concern stated in the capital by the student protests, which have been fuelled by massive graduate unemployment in a country of 850 million people.

While upper-caste students set themselves ablaze in India over Singh's plan to reserve government jobs, low-caste Hindus who would benefit are seething with anger.

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Spanish film wins top prize

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP) — A film about an African immigrant's troubles with racism in Spain won the Golden Conch Award for best film and its non-professional Senegalese protagonist received the Best Actor Prize at the 38th San Sebastian International Film Festival.

The international jury headed by Spanish director Jose Luis Borau awarded the Best Film Prize to Carlos De Alou (Letters from Alou), the third feature film directed by Montxo Armendariz of Spain.

The Best Actor Award went to Maitie Jarju, a Senegalese immigrant who did not have a legal work permit before being discovered by Armendariz in a local amateur theatre troupe near Barcelona.

In the film, he plays an illegal alien whose letters to his family detail the racism encountered by a group of African immigrants from their clandestine entry into Spain to their fate on the fringes of society in the underground economy.

Best Director Prize went to Joel Cohen of the United States for Miller's Crossing. Armendariz has directed two other films, Tasio and 27 Hours, while Cohen and his brother Ethan have made Blood Simple and Raising Arizona.

Margherita Buy of Italy received the prize for Best Actress for her work in La Settimana Della Sfiga (The Week of the Sphinx), directed by Daniele Luchetti of Italy. The special jury prize went to the Mexican film Rojo Amanecer (Red Dawn), directed by Jorge Fons.

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Pope to get special piece of the Berlin Wall

COLOGNE, West Germany (AP) — Pope John Paul II is getting a special piece of the Berlin Wall, West German church officials have said. The wall remnant, sculpted into the shape of Berlin, is painted the colours of the rainbow and held by a pair of bronze hands.

It measures about 30-by-30 centimetres and was created from a section of the wall by Cologne sculptor Egidio Weinert, the Cologne archdiocese said in a statement.

Archbishop Cardinal Joachim Meisner plans to take the remnant to Rome next week to give the Pope, the statement said.

Yeltsin's injuries more serious than thought

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin was injured more seriously than previously thought in a car accident, and he is recovering at home, a Soviet newspaper said Saturday.

A car carrying the reform leader was broadsided in rush hour traffic on Sept. 21, but he went on to work at the Russian Republic's offices in Moscow later that day. News reports said he suffered only minor hip injuries. The Soviet newspaper Trud reported that Yeltsin had suffered "massive injuries of the body, especially the thigh," that it said were "slowly healing." The newspaper did not specify what kind of injuries.

Doctors have not prescribed any special medicines, the report said, but recommended Yeltsin rest for 10 days. "However, Boris Nikolayevich is optimistic and is carefully watching all developments, and his family is taking care of him," Trud said.

Checkpoint Charlie, moves to museum

WEST BERLIN (R) — Checkpoint Charlie, a wooden border post that for 23 years symbolised the cold war, was handed over to the German Historical Museum Saturday, four days before East and West Germany merge.

U.S. Military governor General Raymond Haddock said at a ceremony that the prefabricated hut, which stood beside the Berlin Wall from 1961 until last June, represented the determination of the Western allies — the United States, Britain and France — to defend Berlin's freedom.

The allies will relinquish their rights in the once-divided city from Wednesday, when now-democratic East Germany joins the Federal Republic. The museum has already acquired sections of the wall, now largely demolished after it was opened during last year's anti-Communist revolution in East Germany. A giant crane hoisted the checkpoint into history on June 22 in the presence of the foreign ministers of the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and East and West Germany.

U.N. warns of famine disaster in Mozambique

MAPUTO (R) — The U.N. development chief in Mozambique has warned of the threat of a famine disaster in a country where about two-thirds of its 15 million people live in absolute poverty.

Peter Simkin, resident representative of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), said donor response for emergency aid this year had dropped off sharply.

The Gulf crisis, the need to finance reconstruction in Eastern Europe and even "donor weariness" were all taking their toll, Western diplomats said.

"Mozambique is living on a knife edge that could easily become a disaster area of major proportions... it could translate into famine later this year or early next year and we have no resources to fall back on," Simkin told Reuters in a weekend interview.

This includes the fight for independence from Portugal, achieved in 1975, and the subsequent civil war between the government and Renamo, originally created by the white minority government in then Rhodesia to destabilise Mozambique.

Diplomats say Renamo, the Mozambique Resistance Movement, is now believed to be backed by right-wing elements in South Africa, Portugal and possibly the United States.

Only two-thirds of the bare minimum of food had been offered, while donors had pledged \$500,000 of \$14 million sought for relief and survival items such as

clothing, cooking utensils and blankets.

"There's been a definite falling off. This is particularly worrying in the amount of food pledged — only two-thirds of very, very conservative requirements based on survival rations," Simkin said.

In New York, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano told journalists at the United Nations that the world's poorest states had been hard hit by the Gulf crisis and soaring oil prices and a fall in international aid.

The key to Mozambique's future lies in an end to the war that has devastated the country and driven about one-third of its people from their homes.

But peace talks between the Maputo government and Renamo rebels are deadlocked and Western diplomats see little hope for a quick end to 25 years of devastating conflict.

Giap met Chinese Premier Li Peng last Monday and "the two officials exchanged views on all issues relating to the relations between the two countries and other issues of common concern," VNA reported Saturday. The report was seen Sunday in Bangkok.

"They also expressed their wish that the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and the Chinese peoples would be restored soon... and the friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be normalised," it said.

Giap was briefed by Chinese officials on China's economic, scientific and technical reforms, the report added.

Hanoi hopes for better ties with Peking soon

BANGKOK (AP) — High-level officials in Vietnam and China are expressing hope they will soon improve relations, which have been poor since they fought a border war in 1979, the official Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reported.

Hanoi's deputy prime minister, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, returned from China Friday. His visit, coinciding with the opening of the 11th Asian Games in Peking, was the most senior public contact between China and Vietnam since 1979.

Giap met Chinese Premier Li Peng last Monday and "the two officials exchanged views on all issues relating to the relations between the two countries and other issues of common concern," VNA reported Saturday.

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Although Peking and Hanoi maintain ambassadors in each other's capitals, relations have been cold in the past decade because of their support for opposite sides in the Cambodian conflict and because of other territorial disputes. Until 1989 Peking dismissed all of Vietnam's attempts at high-level dialogue.

Relations have since thawed, but the Cambodian war remains an obstacle to improved ties.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and ousted the radical Khmer Rouge, which now operates as a guerrilla army backed by China. China also supports two other guerrilla groups fighting against the government Vietnam installed.

Early this month, Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen Van Linh, Prime Minister Do Muoi and former Premier Pham Van Dong made a secret visit to Peking, Western diplomats said. They reportedly held talks with senior Chinese leaders on Cambodia and Sino-Vietnamese relations.

However, the latest round of Cambodian peace talks, held earlier this month in Bangkok, stalled in spite of strong international efforts to reconcile the warring factions.

2 wounded in Croatian police clash with Serbians

BELGRADE (R) — Two people were injured when Serbian protesters broke into police stations in Croatia, Yugoslavia's second biggest republic, the local media reported Sunday.

Police in Petrinja, Glina and Dvor Na Uni used teargas and batons over the past two days to disperse demonstrators protesting against police confiscating arms from the reserve police force in Serbian-populated areas.

Tanjing news agency, quoting a statement from the Croatian Interior Ministry, said a policeman was shot in the arm and leg when Serbians forced their way into a police station in Petrinja.

An unnamed civilian was also wounded, the newspaper Politika Elspres said.

Civilians broke into several police stations and took away arms before special riot police arrived from the Croatian capital of Zagreb, the newspaper added.

The Croatian Interior Ministry blamed the unrest on "hordes of bandits" who wanted to mount an "armed uprising" in the republic.

It said the police were in control of all towns and were carrying out searches for arms. Scores of people have been arrested, according to newspaper reports.

World leaders to pledge 'better future for every child'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — More than 70 world leaders will pledge "to give every child a better future" and combat poverty, disease, malnutrition and illiteracy at the largest summit meeting in history.

On the final day of the world children's summit, presidents, kings and prime ministers are to sit at a huge table to adopt a declaration that children have first claim on the world's resources.

The nations represented at the summit will announce new strategies to reduce infant mortality, poverty, illiteracy and make health care more available to mothers and children.

Summit organisers said World Bank President Barber Conable Jr. has pledged an additional \$500 million per year in lending this decade aimed at health and education for children. More than a million children could be saved each year by the additional spending, they said.

The two-day summit is aimed at mobilising governments to save up to 100 million children from death by disease and malnutrition in the 1990s.

The declaration resolves to: — reduce child mortality below age 5 by one-third or to a level of 70 per 1,000 births, whichever is the greater reduction; — cut maternal mortality rates by half; — reduce malnutrition among children under 5 by half; — assure universal access to safe drinking water and septic

systems; — provide universal access to basic education, and have at least 80 per cent of primary school children finish school; — cut adult illiteracy by half; — protect children in dangerous circumstances, especially in armed conflict.

A clause was added to the declaration at Kuwait's urging denouncing the suffering of children due to "aggression, foreign occupation and annexation." No specific countries are named in the declaration.

U.S. President George Bush was to leave U.N. headquarters without signing.

"We agree with the spirit of the declaration," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater. But "our review of the convention is not complete and we do not know yet whether it is compatible with our governmental system."

Said one organiser, speaking on condition of anonymity, "Obviously, it's a tremendous disappointment. We certainly wanted to have everyone possible sign the document."

Bush arrived Saturday with a plan to combat measles, polio and other childhood diseases and AIDS among American children. Another goal of the summit is to get more signatures on an international agreement guaranteeing basic human rights for children, called the convention on the rights of the child.

The convention, which went into effect this month, requires nations to guarantee the survival

of children and their development. It sets new standards for fighting child neglect, sexual exploitation and other abuse.

But U.S. officials say they are not yet ready to support the treaty, though it already has been ratified by 43 nations and endorsed by more than 100 others who plan to ratify it.

Conservatives in Congress have criticised the document because it forbids the death penalty for people under age 18 and does not define a fetus as a child and thus protected by the convention.

The White House, State Department, Justice Department and other agencies are still studying the convention's ramifications, said a U.S. official.

Nevertheless, overall response to the event has been "absolutely overwhelming," Canadian Ambassador Yves Fortier, one of the organisers of the summit, said earlier.

"There are 73 governments whose sovereigns or presidents or prime ministers are here in person this weekend to attend this meeting at the highest political level," he said.

"It is not on Monday morning at 9 o'clock that you will be able to say, 'the summit has made a difference,'" said Fortier, but the summit "sends a message to the world, it serves as a catalyst to mobilise public opinion."

Canada, Sweden, Mali, Egypt, Mexico and Pakistan called for the summit, and the U.N. Children's Fund helped organise it. Canadian Prime Minister Brian

Mulroney and Mali's President Moussa Traore were the co-chairmen.

At a Saturday evening banquet attended by 64 of the leaders, Swedish President Ingvar Carlsson led a toast:

"The children of the world are not just another generation, they are the future. The future of all of us. How children live, how children grow up, how children are, this will decide the whole shape of human civilisation," Carlsson said.

The summit also presented a golden opportunity for high-level discussions on the Gulf crisis.

Belgium's King Baudouin rose to the Gulf issue at the banquet, saying in French that "if war breaks out, hundreds of thousands of children will be the innocent victims."

Recognition of children as individuals with inalienable rights began under international law in 1924, when the League of Nations adopted the Geneva Declaration on Children's Rights, abolishing the common custom of treating children as the property of their father.

Among those attending the summit were Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Argentine President Carlos Menem, Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, West German President Richard von Weizsacker, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Mark C. Young, editor of the 1992 edition of the Guinness Book of Records said the summit

is the largest gathering of political leaders on any issue. "Nothing else even comes close," he said.

Lights went out in some of New York's tallest buildings Saturday in tribute to the world summit for children at the United Nations.

The Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, the Pan Am Building, the Times Tower in Times Square, the Pepsi-Cola sign over the East River and other spots went dark at 8 p.m. (0000 GMT) for one minute.

But not everything went as planned. St. Patrick's Cathedral and many other churches that had been asked to ring bells in honour of the summit did not. Broadway theatres failed to turn off their marquees and the World Trade Centre was supposed to dim one tower and did not.

Happily, the teenage mutant Ninja Turtles Concert at Radio City Music Hall came through with a moment of silence. And, earlier in the day, a moment of silence was observed at Shea Stadium during a New York Mets baseball game.

Taxi drivers were also supposed to honk their horns at 8 p.m. (0000 GMT) but, as Bob Bosch, who organised the tribute, said, "I don't know how one would tell the difference between tonight's horns and every other night."

The display was to honour the 70 world leaders participating in the historic world summit for children at the United Nations. President Bush came to town Saturday, bringing along what he always does — massive traffic tie-ups.

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